March/April 2004 ISSUE

Alternative CENTRAL

A Publication for Central PA's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community.

Business Profile
Williamsport's Orrico & Wagner
By Adrienne Mansfield
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Out Play: A Look at Region's Queer Sports Clubs

By Lisa Granite,
Associate Editor

All right, I confess: Sports aren't really my thing. While I do possess a bit of coordination and can throw a ball without causing much damage, I just don't have a competitive nature. And if you don't have the fire - well, someone with the fire is going to beat your behind.

Lacking a competitive nature does not equate having a masochistic one.

Whether you have the fire or not, you're in luck. There are lgbt sports clubs in our area whose members think camaraderie is just as important as competing. Don't get me wrong - they do take the game seriously. But don't we always find a way to make everything a little more fun?

So get up, shake off that winter lethargy and go play. From volleyball to hiking, there's something here to get you moving. All the details you need to get involved are laid out below, so you've got no excuse!

And remember to play nice with the other kids.

Harrisburg Gay Men's and Women's Volleyball

Baughman United Methodist Church, Third and Bridge Streets, New Cumberland
Contact: Jim at 717.233.3172
Hours: Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

This informal lgbt volleyball league has been active in the greater Harrisburg area since the mid '80s. Although attended primarily by gay men, all sexual orientations/identifications are welcome. Lesbians, straight men and women, bisexuals and transgendered folk have played over the years.

Core attendance never surpassed 20-30 people per session, but hundreds of people have played over the past 15 years. Some players have returned religiously for years, while others have been more sporadic in their attendance.

Games take place every Wednesday night with usually around 10 members attending. Formal league rules are eschewed. Although the bump, set, spike routine is preferred, "You'll do all right so long as you don't wrap yourself in the net or step over the mid-court line!" said league contact Jim.

"Throughout the years two elements have held the league together — the common fraternity of lgbt camaraderie and a love of volleyball," Jim said. "That unique blend of sport and sociability has allowed the league to welcome all comers of any skill level."

Central Sighting: Vermont – Paparazzi snapped central PA skiers at Ski Week in Stowe Vt. "This is what happens when you don't properly dry your hair before going out on the slopes," explains one skier.

The Rainbow Bowling League

ABC East Lanes, Eisenhower Blvd., Harrisburg
Contact: Mark or Bob at 717.763.8444, Rainbowleague16@aol.com
Hours: Thursdays from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

The Rainbow Bowling League started about 12 years ago as a "mixed" league, i.e., both women and men participate. In years past, there have been as many as 16 teams bowling per season. There are currently eight teams, with three members on each team.

The 34-week season runs from the week after Labor Day through the end of April. During the season,

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What Are Rick McKay, Greg Walloch, David Drake Doing Now?

By Winnie McCroy
NYC Correspondent

Harrisburg residents not hankering to visit the big city have been fortunate to have the city come to them. Openly gay playwrights and filmmakers Rick McKay, David Drake and Greg Walloch have visited our artistic enclave touring their work.

Alternative Central checked in to see what they've done since their visits, and when they plan to return.

Rick McKay's film "Broadway: The Golden Age" charmed central Pennsylvania, and he walked away with the Best Film and Best Documentary at the Fifth Annual Art Fest Film Festival, sponsored by Filmspeak.com and moviate.

"I thought there was something magical in this little town," McKay says of Harrisburg.

"I always loved film and hearing people's stories that were around before I was, what New York was really like back then," said McKay, who came to filmmaking after working as a singer, actor and writer.

"The film actually segued into asking people to tell these stories. It's about six years in making, an epic. It takes a large chunk of your life to put 100 people in your film, to capture their history. There's a huge cast, everyone from Angela Lansbury to Steven Sondheim."

McKay said he loved "when I could get people to finish each others sentences, like Richard Rodgers daughter Mary saying she didn't get 'West Side Story' at all, cut to Chita Rivera, saying 'I totally got it.'" The film doesn't focus on gay subtext, but as McKay puts it, "It's redundant to talk about being gay on Broadway."

"Broadway: The Golden Age" launches on TONY week, June 6, with a gala premiere, and opens in arthouse theaters on June 11. for more locations, check www.broadwaythemovie.com.

McKay's next project is "Birds of a Feather," a documentary that began as his background footage of drag queens for the film "Birdcage." "I always wanted to go

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Combined AIDS Walk May 2; Capitol Rally Added

If AIDS activism taught the world one thing, it's that no effort succeeds by staying the same.

On May 2, 2 p.m. the region will witness a transformed AIDS Walk with the combining of the Lancaster and Harrisburg events into a single, Harrisburg AIDS Walk. Organizers also have added a State Capitol Rally, where the combined Walk will end. There will be another AIDS Walk Tailgate Express feeding walkers from surrounding locations into the event's main site in Harrisburg's Riverside Park.

AIDS Community Alliance CEO Phil Goropoulos explains that "each year our supporters face a difficult choice – do they participate in the Harrisburg AIDS Walk or in the Lancaster event?" Apparently, many faced with that choice have in recent years simply elected to stay home.

"Well, no that's not the whole story," Goropoulos says. "Lately, AIDS Walks across the country have struggled as people are faced with many worthy choices for other walks – breast cancer awareness, pet shelters," he notes.

This year that's going to change.

"For the first time in the history of central Pennsylvania's epidemic, we're having a combined AIDS Walk rather than separate events in Lancaster and in Harrisburg," Goropoulos says. Organizers have added a rally at the State Capitol. The rally looks to send a message to Pennsylvania that while the nature of HIV/AIDS struggle has changed, the epidemic is far from over.

This year's event on May 2, 2004, 2 p.m. (rain or shine event) begins with entertainment, stretching and walker registration in Harrisburg's Riverfront Park South. Harrisburg residents will be joined by walkers from Lancaster, Lebanon, Carlisle, Gettysburg and beyond – some of whom will be bused on the AIDS Walk Tailgate Express (check with AIDS Community Alliance to see if a bus is scheduled from your town). The walk culminates with a rally on the steps of the State Capitol.

For complete event information or to request a sponsorship form please call AIDS Community Alliance at 1-800-867-1550.

Artist Ryan Stroup Breaks Mold

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Michael Tindell, Mr. Gay PA Breaks Down Barriers

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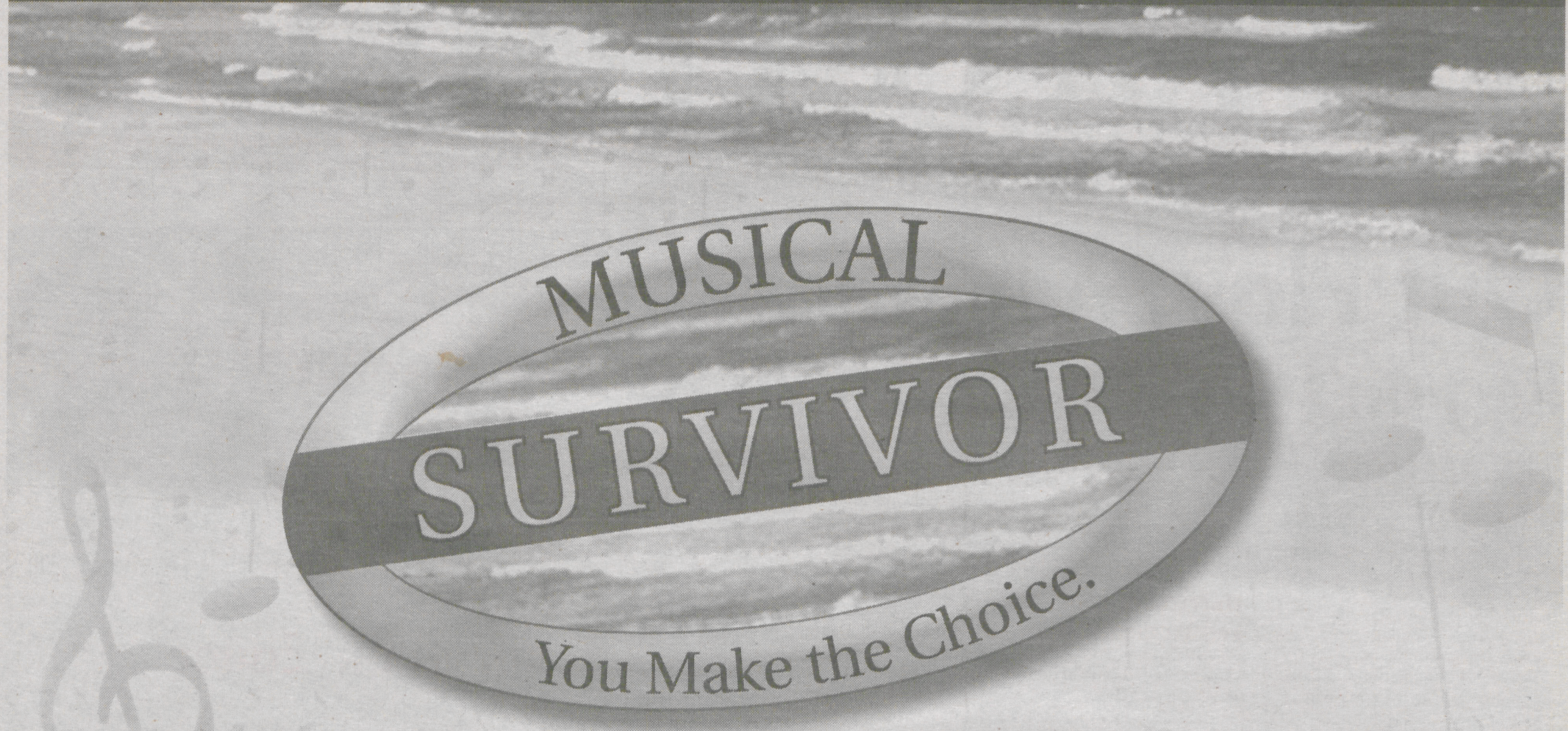
Capital BlueCross Pops series presents



Pops III **May 1–2, 2004**

They said it couldn't be done. Reality entertainment in a concert setting? In our new take on the Pops experience, audience members decide what music the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra will play. Will it be *The Pink Panther* or *Peter Gunn*? You decide.

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Letter from Publisher & Editor

When NYC award-winning actor and playwright David Drake, a Baltimore boy, traveled here for our first Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, he departed with two suggestions. "You need a newspaper and a community center."

We now have both.

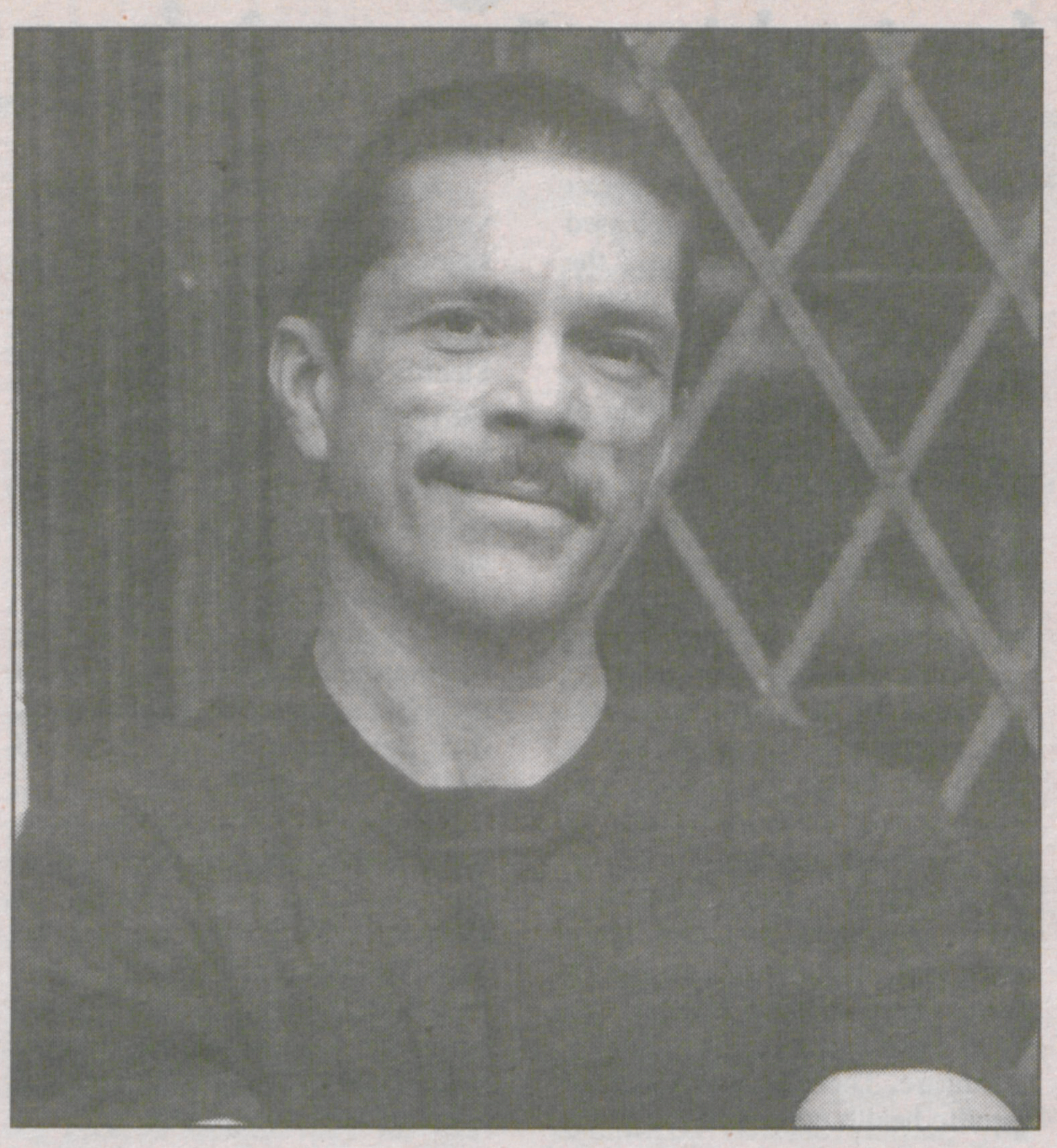
This the fifth issue of *Alternative Central*. We still need more readers to subscribe.

Yes, we understand that you can pick up a copy for free in numerous locations around the region. That's not the point homo. We need you to write a check for $20 (or more, if you can afford it, and many of you certainly can) for a subscription. Don't be a queer freeloader all your life.

The money supports both this newspaper and The Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg. No one on the editorial staff gets any of it. We're working for free. Belly up and buy a subscription. Clip out the card inside and mail it or go to www.askglsh.org and buy a Switchboard membership (same deal - $20) which includes a one-year subscription.

We also now have Common Roads Community Center. The space has become a real crossroads for our community. Besides youth programs provided by CR, the address also houses SPARC, *Alternative Central*, FAB, and The Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg. If you'd like a tour, call Carol Reisinger at 717-920-9534.

To see what they're up to now, AC talks to three NYC celebs who've performed and partied in central PA – Drake, filmmaker Rick McKay, and queer actor and film star Greg Walloch.



We hear from guys around the country on HIV-negative and HIV-positive men dating. One local source describes this region as "clueless" when it comes to HIV disclosure issues. What do you think? (Send comments to PosOps@aol.com)

Hard-working artist Ryan Stroup, featured in April at Mechanicsburg's 2nd Floor Gallery, is profiled by insightful Associate Editor Michael Chapaloney.

If your sap is drooling, check out all the clubs and organizations in Associate Editor Lisa Granite's article on Breaking Cabin Fever. She also talked with Rita Mae Brown, author of the lesbian classic, *Rubyfruit Jungle.*

Our correspondent Adrienne Mansfield profiles Williamsport's Orrico & Wagner, a savvy gay-owned business.

Eric Ledell Smith talked to Michael Tindell, Mr. Gay Pennsylvania, the first African American man to enjoy that honor.

We also have our usual news round-up on with items from State College, Scranton, Pottstown, and all points queer of here.

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Alternative CENTRAL
Central to your life.

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to read your piece about The Women's Circle. This group has become an instrumental part of my life as a central PA lesbian.

I was introduced to the group at a time of great change and great pain. The first women's retreat in September 2002 helped me piece myself back together. The Women's Circle continues to bring love, light and warmth into my life - new friends, new awareness, and new joy. With each meeting, I am amazed at the sharing and support I find, whether it be from a lesbian who has been out for 30 years or a young woman just finding her way.

Thanks for bringing awareness about this great group.

Gina Shelton

News page

New Element Discovered

(from the Internet)

A major research institution in the United States has recently announced the discovery of the heaviest chemical element yet known to science. The new element has been tentatively named Governmentium.

Governmentium has 1 neutron, 12 assistant neutrons, 75 deputy neutrons,and 224 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312. These 312 particles are held together by forces called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called peons.

Since Governmentium does not have electrons, it is therefore inert. However, it normally can be detected as it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact. Governmentium has a normal half-life of 4 years; it does not decay, but instead undergoes a reorganization in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places. In fact, Governmentium's mass will actually increase over time, since any reorganization will cause some morons to become neutrons, forming isodopes.

This characteristic of moron-promotion leads some scientists to speculate that Governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a certain quantity in concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as "critical morass".

Oklahoma DOMA author investigated for sexual battery

According to The Enid News & Eagle staff writer Scott Fitzgerald Oklahoma lawmaker Rep. Mike O'Neal, R, is under police investigation on a sexual battery complaint. Oklahoma Speaker of the House Larry Adair confirmed that O'Neal is being investigated.

O'Neal authored the state's "Defense of Marriage Act," legislation calling for a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman. He also introduced a bill last year limiting the use of "incompatibility" as grounds for divorce.

According to police reports, a man entered the hotel lounge and after introducing himself told one women there to get into some boxer shorts and a T-shirt and meet him in the whirlpool, according to the report. Declining, the woman left.

He then began a conversation about marriage with the female victim, according to the report.

Scared, the victim left running from the lounge to the elevator. As the elevator closed with victim and a friend inside, the suspect reportedly stuck his arms through the opening spreading apart the doors. The victim and friend escaped. Calling hotel security from her room, the victim was treated for a sprained ankle suffered when running away, according to the report.

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition Forms

Transsexuals (TS) are of great public interest today. Admittedly complex, TS people are commonly misunderstood and confused with other gender variant groups and gays.

To educate on transsexual issues, James Halleman and Rachel Thompson formed the Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition. The coalition's will counteract misinformation by answer questions with integrity. The new group will also assist newly aware TS people.

A round table discussion group is available to organizations interested in TS awareness. Members are also available to work with TS individuals, the press or parent. Call Rachel, 610-997-5474 or E-mail Humanrights4all@aol.com. or James at James30338874@aol.com or call 610-814-0530. No fees.

Mary Cheney focus of activist web site

DearMary.com, a web site launched by StopDrLaura.com creator John Aravosis places Vice President Dick Cheney's openly lesbian daughter, Mary, in the eye of the storm over same-sex marriage. Aravosis is also national co-chair of DontAmend.com, a civil rights working to block the Federal Marriage Amendment.

"If the vice president thinks gay relationships are such a threat to society that we need to amend the U.S. Constitution, then he needs to explain why a lesbian in a same-sex relationship is running his reelection campaign. Are we a threat, or aren't we?" Aravosis told *The Advocate*.

DearMary.com asks readers to write public letters to Mary Cheney on gay marriage. The letters will be published on the site and in national newspapers and magazines. The vice president has said he believes the issue of gay and lesbian marriage should be decided by individual states though he would support a Federal Marriage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution if backed by President Bush.

Mary Cheney, 34, has been openly lesbian for years and has worked as the gay liaison at beer brewing company Coors and been a member of the Republican Unity Coalition. She currently runs her father's reelection campaign.

Penn State Coffeehouse Event March 16

Want to know where queers gather in State College? Sorry, we don't know either.

We DO know that the Coalition of LGBT Graduate Students at Penn State, GAIN (The Gay Affirming Interfaith Network of the Centre Region), and the Music and Arts Ministry of the University Baptist and Brethren Church of State College have formed an alliance to sponsor their first LGBTA Coffee House and Fundraiser on Tuesday evening, March 16, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.

The theme is "Reflecting the Colors of Our Rainbow; Celebrating Our Loves, Passions, and Creations." A $5.00 donation paid at the door is suggested. The event also features a Silent Arts Auction in addition to diverse performances, art exhibitions, and free refreshments.

All funds raised will benefit the work of the Human Rights Campaign and the Coalition of LGBT Graduate Students' One in Ten Film Festival.

Any lgbta person of any age interested in sharing poetry readings, readings of other creative design, dramatic scenes/soliloquies, comedic sketches, dance, musical performances (classical, pop, folk, indigenous, drumming, newly composed and/or written works), displays of visual art (paintings, sculptures, pottery, photography, collage, floral designs), videography, filmography, personal reflections, and/or other creative outlets either of original creative design or re-constructed composition not listed above are encouraged to get involved.

Event Location: The University Baptist and Brethren Church, 411 South Burrowes Street, State College, PA 16801. Contact Matt Russell at mnr107@psu.edu by March 9, 2004.

Upper Pottsgrove Township Joins National Debate

By Ted Martin

Like so many places in America, Upper Pottsgrove Township residents are listening to the national debate on rights and responsibilities for gay people. But for residents here, it's rare when a national issue strikes a local chord.

Updating insurance policies is a dull job. Even when it involves issues like death and dismemberment coverage for police officers. But that's what sparked debate for Township Commissioner Julie Gallisdorfer. Her questions soon made the role of gay relationships a running discussion in this small Pennsylvania locale.

Required insurance pays out a benefit of $50,000 to the surviving spouse and children of any township officer killed or dismembered in the line of duty. If that officer is single though, or has a "life partner," as Commissioner Gallisdorfer

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Time to Talk Deed

By Derek J. Cordier, Esquire

If you're partnered and buying a home or already own a home and want to add a significant other's name to the title – it's time to talk deed.

First there is the question of the mortgage. In Pennsylvania, the name on the deed must match the name on the mortgage. Lenders decide who qualifies for the mortgage. So if only one person qualifies, only one person's name is on the deed and is therefore the legal owner of the property.

If you are able to have more than one person on the deed, having an ownership interest in the property may be accomplished in a few different ways. For lgbt folks the tenancy, or ownership interest, that affords two parties the most protection is that of joint tenants with right of survivorship. If one person named on the deed dies, a joint tenancy with right of survivorship will allow the property to pass to the survivor without going through probate and thus no one can object, as with a last will and testament.

However, the joint tenants with right of survivorship tenancy does not avoid all taxes. At death there will be an inheritance tax on the share of property that passes. That tax for unrelated persons is currently 15 percent. If you already own the property and wish to add an unrelated significant other to the deed with a joint tenants with right to survivorship clause, there will be a 2 percent transfer tax on half of the value of the property.

By doing some simple math, if you transfer half of the property now you will pay 2 percent on half of the value of the property, and 15 percent on half of the value if one party dies. The alternative is to leave the property by last will and testament. However, if you leave the property by last will and testament to someone who is not related, there will be a 15 percent tax on the entire value of the property. So in the long run you may save money on taxes by transferring now rather than at death.

You must be sure that owning a home together is in both parties' best interests. If you are partnered, but only one person is able to be named on the deed, the person who's name is not on the deed should require some protection if they are contributing to the household and/or the mortgage. Both parties should keep a record of the contributions to the mortgage and upkeep of the home. If there is a breakup, the person that is not able to be named on the deed could end up with nothing to show for their contributions. A cohabitation agreement that specifies what the unnamed partner shall receive if there is a breakup should provide adequate protection. Emotions run high when couples are contemplating the purchase of a home. They run even higher if the couple breaks up.

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Mautner Project Launches "Heart Truth for Lesbians"

In conjunction with National Heart Month, the Mautner Project for Lesbian Health today released "The Heart Truth for Lesbians," the first national heart health awareness campaign targeted to women who partner with women.

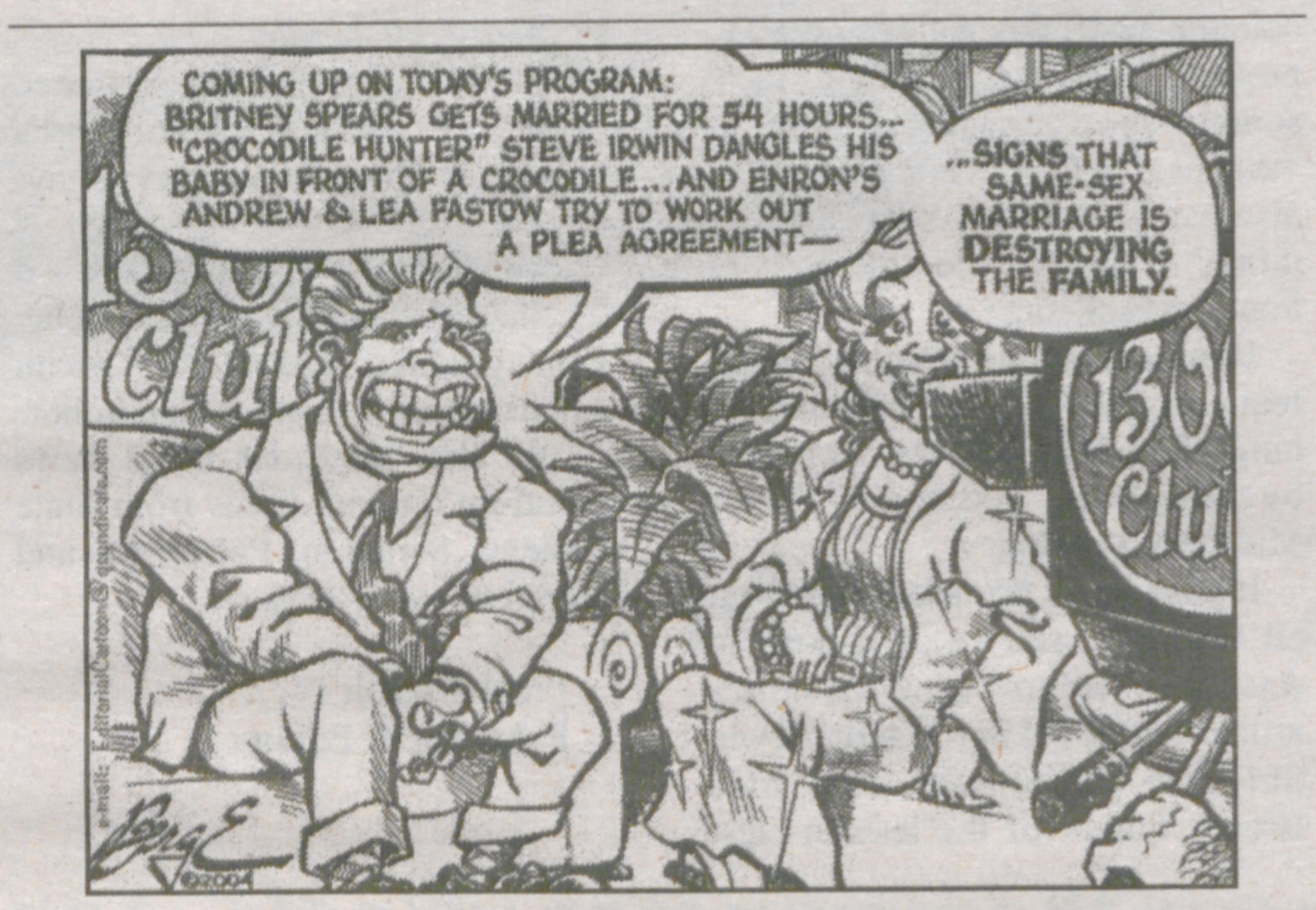
"Heart disease is the #1 killer of women in the United States, and lesbians may be at even greater risk than heterosexual women," said Mautner Project Executive Director Kathleen DeBold. Factors increasing a woman's risk for heart disease – obesity, smoking, and lack of exercise – are prevalent in the lesbian community. Stress is also a major risk factor for women, and lesbians bear the added stress of anti-gay discrimination.

Other barriers, including lack of health insurance, provider ignorance and institutionalized homophobia, keep lesbians from receiving fair and equal access to quality healthcare. There is also a lack of specific health education programs targeted to lesbians.

"Most mainstream health interventions do not use media, messages or messengers that are effective in reaching the lesbian community, especially those of us who identify as butch or androgynous," says DeBold. Although grassroots health groups have made great strides in developing lesbian-specific health programs, their efforts are limited by insufficient funding.

"Although the federal government increasingly recognized the health needs of lesbians and gays in the 1990's, since the 2000 election there has been a definite backward shift," said DeBold.

The Mautner Project has partnered with GayHealth.com to help maximize the Heart Truth for Lesbians effectiveness on line. To view The Heart Truth for Lesbians fact sheet online go to www.mautnerproject.org. or for more information call 202-332-5536 or email kdebold@mautnerproject.org.


COMING UP ON TODAY'S PROGRAM: BRITNEY SPEARS GETS MARRIED FOR 54 HOURS... "CROCODILE HUNTER" STEVE IRWIN DANGLES HIS BABY IN FRONT OF A CROCODILE... AND ENRON'S ANDREW & LEA FASTOW TRY TO WORK OUT A PLEA AGREEMENT—
...SIGNS THAT SAME-SEX MARRIAGE IS DESTROYING THE FAMILY.
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Anti-gay Pastor Convicted of Solicitation

Known for routinely condemning homosexuality, the Philadelphia-based Rev. Craig Stephen White was convicted in January by a jury of his peers of criminal solicitation to commit involuntary deviate sexual intercourse and related offenses.

The charges stem from the day last June while in West Chester Rev. White stopped to ask a 14-year-old boy for directions. According to the *Associated Press*, he later returned and offered the boy $20 to take part in sexual activity.

White first made a name for himself while preaching on college campuses against homosexuality where he used a bull-horn to warn others about "fornicators", "whores", and "sodomites." He started a Temple University Campus group called "Soldiers for Christ."

Robert J. Donatoni, White's defense attorney, suggested during the proceedings that the teenage boy was mistaken, confused or seeking attention.

One central PA lesbian activist, asking to remain anonymous to protect her job, commented that homophobia is full of counterintuitive events like Rev. White's conviction. "These projections onto others of one's own shortcomings may explain, for example, why in the Red Republican States the rate of divorce is higher than in the Blue Democratic States the red states want to 'reform' with their religious and family values," she opined.

A local theatre buff relied on William Shakespeare for his explanation. "Me thinks she doth protest too much."

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As many of you assess the affordability of retirement, you may find one of your primary resources in the form of a pension plan offered through your employer. A pension is essentially an annuity that can provide a stream of income for someone's lifetime. With an annuity, you are betting that you will live a long life, and the company is betting that you will not. For this reason, they are willing to pay you income for life. The calculation that they use to determine how much to pay you is based on, among other factors, your life expectancy. If you live to receive one check beyond your life expectancy, you win. If you do not, the company wins.

Those who have a pension plan know that their pension benefit is determined by a formula that usually takes age, length of service, and the prior three years worth of income into account. From this formula, employees can approximate their pension income. While most have estimated their pension income, few truly understand the benefits and consequences of the options available to them.

The primary option for those with pension plans comes in the form of a lifetime stream of income. With this option, someone who is married can select a full benefit or a partial benefit with spousal survivorship income. The full benefit typically provides the largest stream of income, but does not provide a survivorship benefit. If, for example, you passed away one year into receiving benefits, the rest of your lifetime income would be surrendered back to your employer's pension plan.

Again, someone who is married has other options. A married retiree can decide to take a reduced benefit in order to provide a small amount of income for his/her spouse. Some companies may allow for the spouse to receive more than 75% of the original benefit upon the retiree's death. Unlike someone who is married, if you are single or are in a domestic partner relationship, odds are you can only elect to receive the full benefit (which does not provide for your partner or other beneficiary).

Some pension plans do not even provide for nonspousal beneficiaries during employment. A gay or lesbian couple planning on receiving pension income may see this asset vanish upon the covered partner's death- even if this occurs prior to retirement. For this reason, you may want to focus on building the investment assets for the partner without a pension plan and/or purchasing life insurance on the covered partner to protect that asset.

Another option provided by some companies is a lump sum benefit. With a lump sum benefit, the company determines your pension income and then calculates your distribution. This one-time pay out is typically the current value of all of your future income. When you receive this benefit, you can typically transfer the money to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

Having the money in an IRA provides you with increased flexibility over the annuity benefit. First, you can take as much money as you need from an IRA. If you have an emergency or want to take a vacation, you can dip into your IRA for those excess funds. With the annuity payment, you are set on a fixed income. Second, if you pass away, you can name your partner, family, friends, a trust, and/or a charity as your beneficiary. Third, the assets in the IRA belong to you not the company. If your company were to go bankrupt, you could see a reduction in your pension income. If the money is in your IRA, they cannot reclaim those funds. These benefits provide you with greater control over the money that you earned during your years of service with your employer.

For those who must take an annuitized income stream, you may want to consider purchasing life insurance. Many married couples use this strategy because it allows them to protect the spouse at a smaller cost than reducing the retiree's full pension. Using this option, you can evaluate the survivor's need, calculate the current value of that need, and purchase life insurance on the retiree for that amount.

You cannot change your election after you begin receiving your pension benefits. For this reason, I highly suggest working closely with a financial advisor to help you weight the pros and cons of all of your options.

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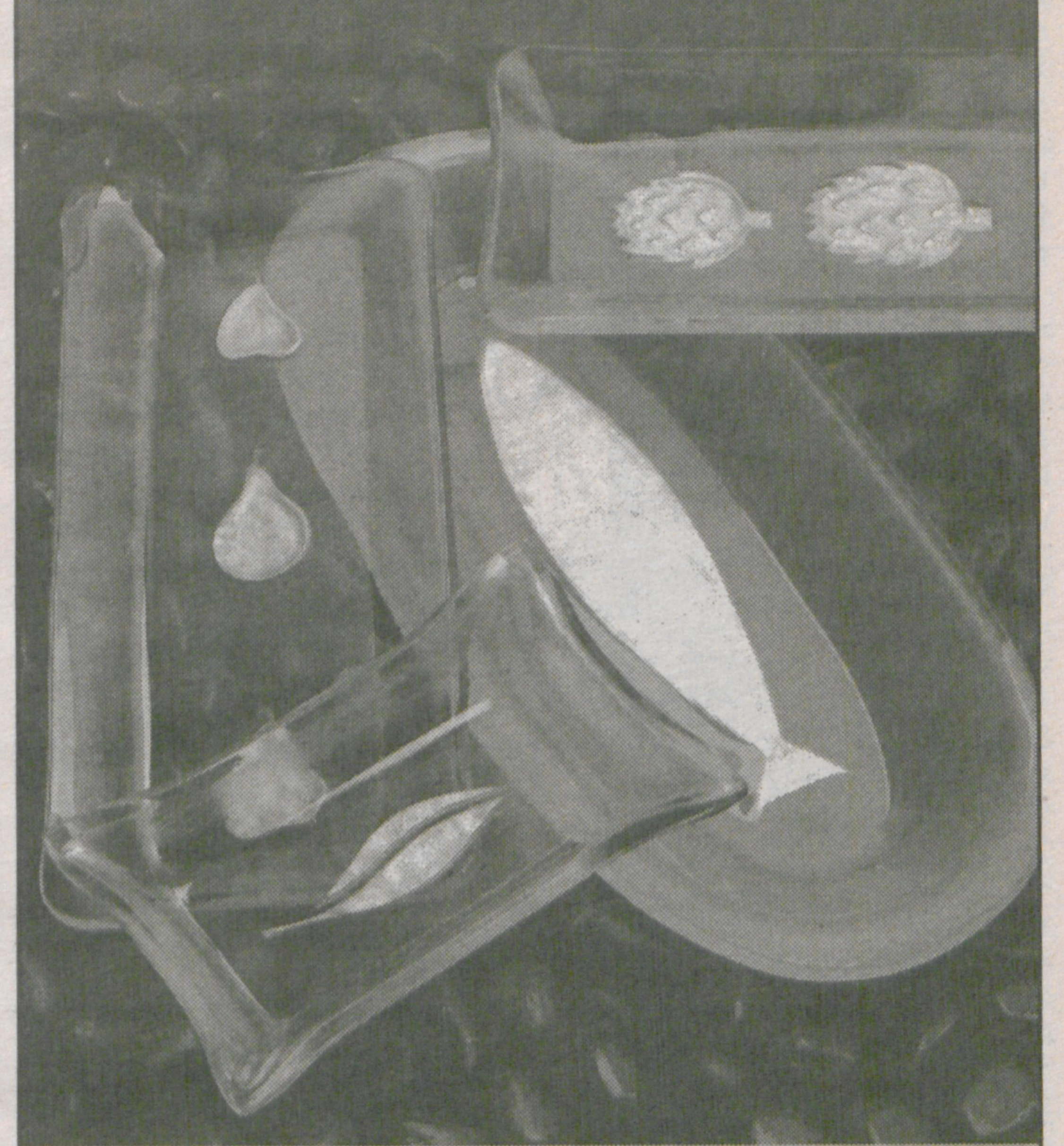

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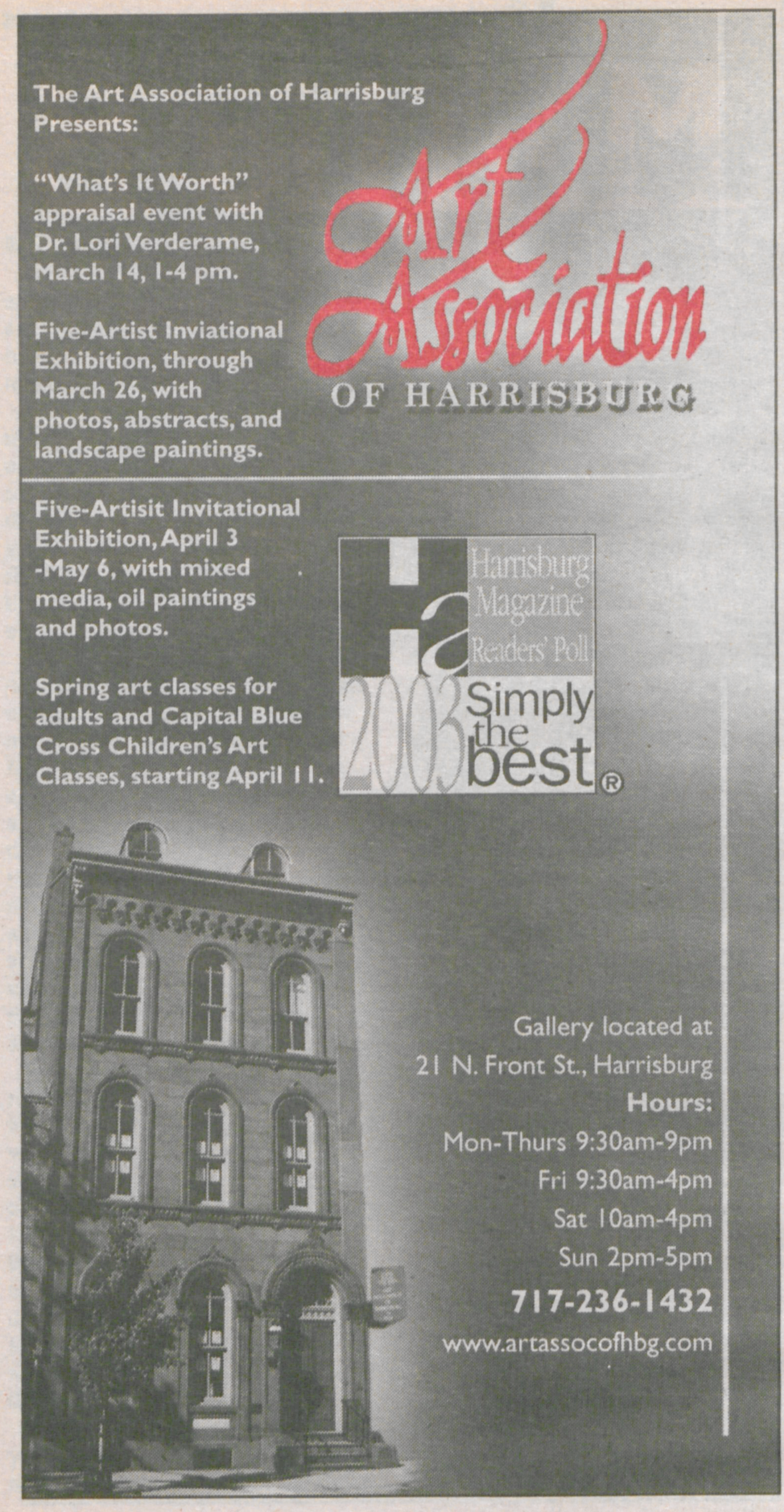
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Syphilis is Back, Are You at Risk?

The rate of syphilis infection among gay and or bisexual men is on the rise.

Pennsylvania Department of Health officials confirm an increase in infectious syphilis rates among men who identify as gay or bi-sexual and who engage in unsafe or unprotected sexual activities.

AIDS Community Alliance CEO Phil Goropoulos is also concerned that a rise in syphilis cases, and other STDs, deflects from other issues facing the larger gay community.

"The rise in syphilis cases among gay men in central Pennsylvania sparks a debate – a debate that forever seems to be splitting our community and one that is used continuously as a weapon to defeat us in the marriage debate, the adoption debate and other arenas," Goropoulos points out.

For some gay men, the debate is narrow-minded. Goropoulos describes it as "the freedom to have sex, to enjoy sex, to be sexual, but not including the responsibility to practice safer sex." How such behavior advances the cause of gay civil rights "escapes me", he says. "We give our enemies bullets to fire from their bigot guns and then complain afterwards about our wounds."

Health officials surmise, but cannot conclusively prove, that this increase in infectious syphilis results from use of the Internet where some, and by no means all, gay and bi-sexual men arrange sexual liaisons.

Chat rooms and Web sites are becoming very popular meeting places to connect with others and to arrange a meeting that may lead to sex. With more people meeting online and participating in unsafe and often anonymous sex, infectious syphilis rates are increasing at an alarming rate.

Goropoulos agrees. A few years ago ACA's Education Department published TWIST – a little bar rag left out by their outreach workers staffing the local gay bars. "The topics begged all the questions gay men and their buddies debate in the dark corners of the local bars or in chat rooms: How hot is safe sex? Why take E? What's our fascination with raw sex? When did Special K become more breakfast?" Goropoulos made a focused effort to create a dialogue in the gay male community.

Still, the message is a tough one to get out there to an audience having sex in a state of denial about their own risk factors. The audience includes some, not all, gay men, but still the numbers of STD cases are on the rise.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health tells Alternative Central it has noticed an increase in males infected with primary and secondary syphilis (infectious syphilis) who have identified male sex partners or sex with another man as a risk behavior.

The department relies on patients to provide information related to their risk behaviors or to name male sex partners. The STD Program can only identify those cases as part of this population when the risk is identified by the patient, either in specifying the risk or in naming male sexual contacts.

In March 2003, the STD Program reviewed all primary and secondary syphilis cases from January 2002 through March 2003. Of the 49 male cases reported to the department during this time period (excluding Philadelphia cases), 27 or 43% had male partners identified or the patient identified risk behavior - having sexual contact with another man.

For the Calendar Year 2003 (provisional data) there were 29 primary and secondary male syphilis cases reported to the STD Program. Of these 29 cases, 13 cases (45%) admitted to sexual contact with another man.

Nationally, many states and large urban cites are reporting dramatic increases in MSM risk related infectious syphilis cases (San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia. For data concerning the "national picture, access the CDC website - **www.cdc.gov**).

Many of the cases in Pennsylvania, following the national trend, also have Internet connections where multiple sexual partners are being met on websites chat rooms, liaisons are being set up and in most cases anonymous sex is occurring. The individuals participating in these activities are increasing their risk every time they have unprotected or unsafe sex, whether its anonymous or not, in contracting an STD and increasing the possibility

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Hamilton Health Center

HIV & Mental Health: Body Connects to Mind

By Randy L. Reimold, MSW, LSW

Mental health problems are common among people living with HIV and AIDS and should be treated along with the physical effects of the virus.

But what's that you say? You have enough stigmas already? Gay? Drug abuser? HIV positive? Besides, don't you already have enough medical appointments? Don't you already take enough medications? Do you really need one more problem that requires your time and attention to manage? Of course not!

Nevertheless, a 2002 International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care (IAPAC) survey of physicians found that over 80% of their HIV-positive patients also lived with depression or anxiety. In reality, nearly 100% of all of us live with occasional bouts of anxiety or depression. These survey results indicate those who suffered from them "frequently or very frequently."

HIV generates so much anxiety and depression because treating it represents significant life changes. That is to say that HIV is a major chronic illness that can affect everything from your finances to your relationships to the number of times you have to visit the bathroom every day. It's amazing to me that 20% of those who aren't HIV positive **don't** suffer "frequently or very frequently" from stress or depression. This 20% is blessed with a very stable neurochemistry and/or support system that many of us simply don't have. Both of which can have a significant affect on your physical health.

Minor depression increases your risk of heart disease 1-2 times, while major depression increases the risk three to five-fold. Your body really is connected to your mind.

An American Academy of Science study shows that as much as 80% of all illnesses are stress-related. I always know when I'm starting to take on too much stress because I get a sore throat. That's my body's signal to my mind to load up on Vitamin C and zinc and get plenty of extra rest.

Researchers at the University of California—Los Angeles AIDS Institute found that chronic stress suppresses the immune system's ability to produce CD4 cells and actually undermines the effects of antiretroviral drugs. Seventy-one percent of the low-stress participants achieved undetectable viral loads while on an antiretroviral regimen, with the same results occurring for only 17% of the high-stress individuals.

Further, a lack of social support and close relationships has been linked with physical conditions such as heart disease, cancer, epilepsy, inflammatory bowel disease, and arthritis. For example, social isolation increases your risk of coronary heart disease 2-3 times, and conflict or stress-ridden relationships increase the risk 3-5 times. This means that bad relationships are worse for your health than no relationships at all, but good relationships are the best of all. It is worth it to spend the time and energy maintaining healthy relationships.

Then there's the whole spectrum of emotional and psychiatric problems that's found throughout society. This same spectrum is found in people who acquire the virus, only in greater numbers. The HIV Cost and Services Utilization Study was a very large study conducted by the RAND Health Program from 1996 to 1998. They estimate that HIV-positive patients have four to eight times the number of mental disorders as the general population. Sometimes the mental disorder is a contributing factor in acquiring the virus, and sometimes it is a result of the virus. Either way, it takes a definite toll on the quality of a person's life.

The good news is that mental health problems are very treatable. The National Mental Health Association reports that mental health treatment is at least as effective as treatments for physical ailments such as heart disease. The National Institute of Mental Health found that depression is successfully treated 80% of the time with medications, psychotherapy, or both.

Like HIV, the key is in managing the illness. Long-term survivors of the virus take control of their lives and the virus. If you don't take charge of the virus, the virus will take charge of you. It's the same with depression, stress, or any mental health problem. If you don't take charge and manage it with therapy, meds, or both, then it will master you. No one is perfectly healthy physically; we all get colds or the flu and usually worse. Likewise, no one is perfectly mentally healthy. Depression is something most of us succumb to now and then, but it's no way to live your life.

If it's true that the quality of our days is more important than the quantity of our days, then it's worth the time and effort to manage our own mental health.

Randy Reimold, a licensed social worker, prepared this article for the Hamilton HOPE Program at Hamilton Health Center in Harrisburg. HOPE is an HIV treatment and prevention program. For more information about the Hamilton HOPE Program call(717) 230-3949.

Syphilis is Back continued

of infecting others.

What is Syphilis?

Syphilis is a bacterial infection transmitted from an infected person through sexual (oral, rectal, vaginal or penile) contact. Once infected, an individual can unknowingly spread the infection to others through sexual contact.

If left untreated, individuals infected with syphilis may go on to develop syphilitic meningitis; partial or incomplete paralysis; disabling lesions of the heart; destructive lesions of the skin, viscera and bone; permanent damage to the central nervous system that can result in insanity or blindness; and, possibly, death. Untreated syphilis infections in pregnant women can cause stillborn deliveries or physical and developmental complications in newborns.

Syphilis infections are curable.

Depending on the duration of the infection, a single or multiple dose of penicillin, or another recommended antibiotic, is effective in curing an individual of their infection.

If you were recently prescribed an antibiotic for another medical condition, it may not have been the appropriate type or amount of antibiotic to adequately treat a syphilis infection. If you choose to receive an STD exam, it is vital that you inform the medical provider of any antibiotic use in the last 90 days.

The only way to determine if you or your partner(s) are infected is to get examined and tested for syphilis. The test to confirm the presence of the infection is a blood test. Tests for syphilis are fast, free, and confidential at any of the Department of Health's STD provider and STD clinic sites. In addition to testing for syphilis, the Department's statewide network of STD provider sites and clinics also provides free and confidential examinations, testing and treatment for all STD's.

For more information concerning syphilis or any other STD, or for the location of a free and confidential STD provider site or clinic near you, call the Pennsylvania Department of Health's toll-free help line at 1-877-PA HEALTH anytime, or the STD Program at (717) 787-3981 during the hours of 8:00 A.M.– 5:00 P.M. All calls are strictly confidential. Information about STD's and free and confidential STD health care providers and clinic sites is also available at the Department of Health's website: **www.health.state.pa.us/php/std**.

McKay, Walloch & Drake continued

back and find those same queens, and talk to them

about the effect they had on me," said McKay. "There is nothing more inspiring than a young drag queen in Georgia talking about running away from the dairy farm to the big city to make her dreams come true." Though he has resided on the Upper West Side for 20 years, McKay grew up in small town Indiana.

He celebrates "beautiful" Harrisburg as a place where you can follow your dream and be true to your self. "The great work always springs from truth," said McKay. "From Tennessee Williams to William Shakespeare, everyone writes about the pain of family and growing up."

Comedian Greg Walloch also bases his work on reality. In fact, his first major film, "Keeping It Real," from his one-man show, was followed by "Steam Cloud Rising," shot at Three Mile Island.

"Lots of locals would ask what we were doing and I was really straight up about it, and found people to be really receptive and warm," said Walloch. "Being a person who's gay with a disability, I never go around thinking people are not going to be accepting; quite the contrary. On a human level, if your intention is to hit it off, then you will."

Walloch employed this strategy moving from suburban California to West Harlem five years ago. He says he was impressed by the "uncharted territory of a neighborhood that instead of being glutted with Pottery Barn stores, had the feeling of "a part of the city Manhattan forgot."

"People's racial preconceptions kept them away from this part of city, which I just find crazy," said Walloch. He relates this to his work in Harrisburg, saying, "You may be an outsider here, but if you believe you are going to do well in a certain area, whether a small town or big city, then you will."

> **"Being a person who's gay with a disability, I never go around thinking people are not going to be accepting," Walloch says.**

Walloch lives this philosophy by not limiting himself to gay venues. Recent work includes "Shock and Awe A Go-Go," an ongoing, "very woman and gay friendly pan-sexual burlesque show" at New York's Cutting Room; he is also writing for publication, which he describes as very solitary work. He invites Pennsylvania residents to see the show while in New York, and remains hopeful he will be asked to perform at Harrisburg's Gay Pride.

Playwright/filmmaker David Drake also anticipates his next foray into Harrisburg. This newly transplanted Spanish Harlem resident (from Chelsea)who hails from suburban Maryland says he identified with the residents of Harrisburg. Drake appeared nearly two years ago at central PA's First Annual Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, at the Midtown Cinema, with his landmark play (now a film), "The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me."

This month he directs the premiere of "That Woman: Rebecca West Remembers", a new one woman play based on the life of celebrated writer and critic Dame Rebecca West running March 3 -13

continued on page 9

Are We Losing the War on the Home Front?*

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Lesbian Notions:
Is Visibility Good?

By Paula Martinac

Is it better if lesbians are visible or invisible in popular culture? That may sound like a silly question with only one possible answer, but it's one that's been raised by the premiere of Showtime's new lesbian-themed series, "The L Word." Without a doubt, my vote is for visibility, even if there's no possible way to agree on how lesbians should be represented.

There's been a fair amount of public and private griping about "The L Word", much of it even before the show hit the airwaves. One big complaint has been that "real" lesbians don't look like the pretty, ultra-feminine characters on the show, only one of whom is portrayed by a bona-fide lesbian (Leisha Hailey). Showtime has taken quite a few knocks for giving the world these "fake" lesbians, even though the show has both a lesbian creator/producer (Irene Chaiken) and director (Rose Troche).

Epitomizing the show's critics, columnist and Alternative Central correspondent Winnie McCroy complained in the *New York Blade* and its sister paper, the *Washington Blade*, that all the characters in the series are "straight-looking" femmes, with no accompanying butches in sight. In McCroy's view, if the only choice for dyke representation on TV is to see "clipped and plucked 'lesbians,'" she'd choose invisibility.

This criticism suggests that all dykes fall into neat the categories of butch and femme. Because I don't identify as either, does that mean I'm not a real lesbian? Or maybe I'm just a butch in denial. (Don't laugh - that was suggested to me once by an earnest femme.) Indeed, although butch-femme identity is definitely an important aspect of lesbian culture, it's not the only way to be a dyke.

Obviously, when viewing the Showtime series, many lesbians - especially those who don't live in glam Los Angeles, where the show is set - aren't going to see themselves. After all, there aren't just a couple of flavors of "lesbian," any more than there are just a couple of flavors of "heterosexual." But to tell the truth, I didn't see myself in the hip, young, urban lesbians of Troche's much-acclaimed film "Go Fish". And I was never a baby dyke like those in "The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love." However, that doesn't mean I didn't appreciate those movies for telling the stories of some lesbians' lives - even though those lives weren't anything like my own.

The decidedly unglamorous, 40-ish lesbian lovers of the movie "Late Bloomers" are actually a bit more like my immediate circle of dyke friends and acquaintances. Oddly, some reviewers in the gay press dismissed that movie because the middle-aged characters weren't attractive "enough".

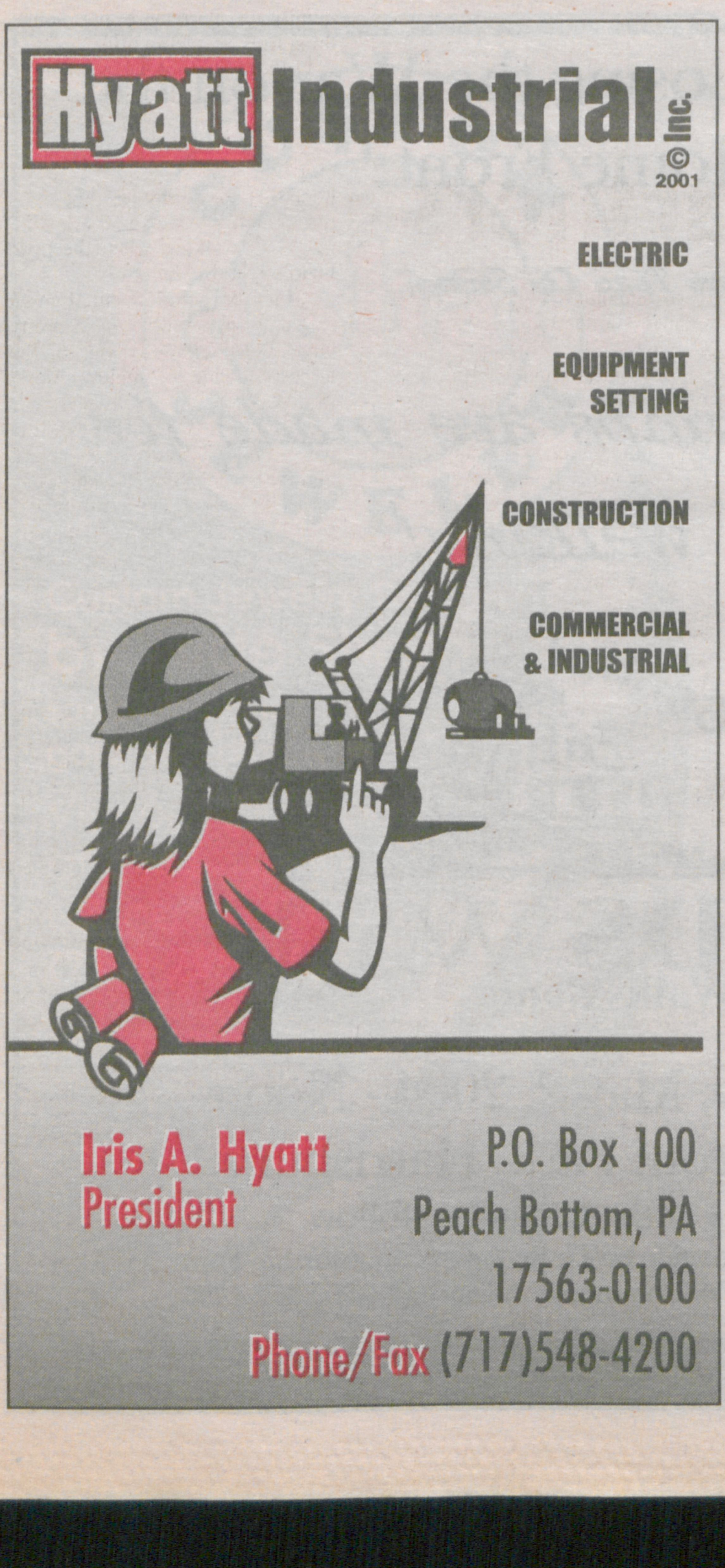
The problem with popular culture, of course, is that it hardly ever resembles "real" real life. Indeed, maybe reality TV programming is so popular because the people on those shows are often just as average-looking as the rest of us - until they get to explore the fantasy of being made over.

There aren't, for example, many African Americans on TV, and those that do crop up still only represent a slice of black people's experiences. Asian Americans remain stereotypes on TV and in mainstream movies like the remake of "Freaky Friday", in which a Chinese woman casts a creepy Eastern spell over the white folks. We rarely get to see middle-aged women on screen except as devoted moms and grannies; two recent notable exceptions were in the films "Calendar Girls" and "Something's Gotta Give". And while Americans keep getting fatter, almost all of the characters on our TV and multiplex screens continue to be trim. Even my hometown of Pittsburgh doesn't resemble the pulsating gay mecca where the _Queer as Folk_ gang hangs out.

If, then, television and movies have trouble getting lots of people "right," maybe there are more meaningful criteria for judging popular culture than simply how the characters onscreen look. Ultimately, I think the big question to ask of _The L Word_ isn't whether the actors are too pretty, but whether the series speaks to our humanity. Can it successfully portray some of the basic problems, desires, joys, challenges, and frailties that lesbians, as members of the human race, encounter and that viewers, gay and straight, can relate to?

If "The L Word" can do that, it will be a boon, since for years lesbians have been off everyone's radar screens but our own - for the simple reason that most of us don't have sex with men. The name of the show alone is a plus, because it forces viewers to think "lesbian," the term many of us prefer over "gay woman." In much the same way, "Queer as Folk" helped bring "the Q word" into more widespread usage, even as it brought sexually active gay men into straight Americans' living rooms. And that's no small accomplishment.

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.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Out Play continued

the league bowls three games every Thursday night from 9:00 p.m. to approximately 10:30 or 11:00 p.m. The cost is $12 per evening, per bowler.

The league bowls in accordance with ABC rules (There is a once-yearly ABC sanction fee of $10.50 for women and $14 for men. At the end of the year, the league has a banquet and presents prize money for team standings, individual standings and other categories. As an ABC-sanctioned league, the group also receives awards for achieving certain bowling feats, such as the first 500 series and the first 600 series.

Volleyball offers a "unique blend of sport and sociability".

"This league is for those of us who enjoy bowling ... but many of us aren't all that great!" said league contact Mark. "We all try and enjoy the 'friendly' competition and we usually have a great time."

Susquehanna Club – Mid-Atlantic Lesbian & Gay Outdoors Club

503 General Sutter Avenue, Lititz
Contact: Mike at camp@susq.org, www.susq.org
Hours: Monthly trips from April to November

Rainbow Bowling League offers "friendly competition".

The Susquehanna Club started in 1989 as a group for lgbt people and their friends that met weekly for day hikes. For the first year, it continued strictly by word-of-mouth. Then, the club began to take formal shape as members began planning monthly camping trips. Currently at 60 members, the group has camped monthly from April to November for 10 years.

Trip activities vary. Past trips have offered hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, shopping, sunbathing, clubbing and board games. There are also some women-only trips available.

The year's destinations are planned at the club banquet, which is held at the beginning of the year.

Lambda Car Club International annually sponsors the Fall Hershey Car Show

Participants are required to be at least 21 years of age. Membership fees run $10 per year for individuals and $15 for couples; the fee includes a subscription to the club newsletter.

"We are a gathering of friends who share quiet times and a love of outdoor adventure," said Mike, the club's president. "All lgbt people and their friends are welcome to join us, either as a member or a one-time participant. However, once you see what we have to offer, you will be back. "

Lambda Car Club International, Central Pennsylvania Region

Contact: John Ball at 717.238.9766 or e-mail for an application at centralpalcc@aol.com
Hours: Monthly meetings (third Tuesday of the month)

Harrisburg resident John Ball founded the Lambda Car Club International (LCCI) 22 years ago, with its first official event held in February 1982. Open to all lgbt people, LCCI has approximately 2,000 members across the United States and in Canada, England and Germany.

The Central Pennsylvania Region of the LCCI has grown from approximately eight members to 34 in just the last few years.

The region's monthly meetings are held in member homes or in area restaurants. In addition to these meetings, the local chapter hosts weekend activities such as road trips, pool parties, barbeques and picnics. They also publish a bimonthly newsletter called the Capitol Clutch Chatter.

LCCI's main local activity is sponsoring the Fall Hershey Car Show annual event, but the chapter is also becoming more involved with local gay organizations. Last summer, the club held a car show for Common Roads youth.

According to Central Pennsylvania Region Director Paul Phillips, "You do not have to own a car to be a member of the club. You only need a desire or fondness for classic or antique cars and related memorabilia."

Central PA "Clueless" about HIV Status

Do HIV-negative Guys Date HIV-positive Men?

Spring is here. Your sap is ripening. Will a stud appear in your doorway carrying flowers and chocolates? Being HIV-positive, you're worried the answer is no.

Actually, your chances look good say positive homos.

Word is HIV-negative guys do date positive guys. It doesn't depend on the virus; it depends on the person. It may also depend on thinking through for yourself "when" to disclose HIV status, "who" to date, and "what" safer sex means to you.

Now that we know there are guys out there who want a date, let's hear about their experiences.

When Do I Tell a Guy?

Kevin, Minneapolis, MN, 36, and positive four years wonders "when it's a good time to tell a guy, especially if things are progressing. Will he be ok or will he end it with some excuse to break things off?" He thinks disclosure is shared duty. "Just ask the guy", he says, cautioning "some people will lie".

Steve, Mishawaka, IN, 43, and negative finds the "telling" part frustrating because a guy's status doesn't matter to him, a belief tested when he "fell in love" with a positive guy. "It's just part of who he is" and doesn't change "who he is inside".

Contrasting Steve's outlook, Vincenzo, San Diego, CA, 33, and positive for two years finds disclosure represents "one more reason to be rejected". He says "every single guy" he asked said they were "negative". "Someone was lying, but I won't perpetuate the chain of dishonesty. It stops with me". He always discloses to demonstrate his "integrity".

Frank, Tucson, Arizona, 47, and positive for 10 years agrees rejections prompted by disclosure are tough, but "if you're up front, the rejection comes faster and is easier to handle".

Regarding disclosure, John, Columbia, SC, 38, and HIV-negative doesn't "tell anybody" he's negative unless they ask. Gene, Tulsa, OK, 42, and negative says his positive partner told him "on our third date" before any sex had occurred between them.

Who do you date?

Edward, Pensacola, FL, 38, and positive for 17 years doesn't date negative guys, feeling "few negative men can deal with positive guys' daily lives". Kevin knows guys who "only date other positive guys. Personally, I date either".

Vincenzo says some guys have no problem dating positive men. They've been there before. He sees an inequitable "balance of power" in serodiscordant (one positive, one negative guy) relationships, so he usually dates "other pos guys".

Daniel, Harrisburg, PA, 25 and positive for one year dates positive guys of any age, saying, "They get it", meaning "safer sex". His peer playmates "dished" him after requests for safer play. "Some of them don't even know there own HIV status, and they jump on me for wanting safer play when I tell them I'm positive", he complains. "It's, like, 2004, and they're clueless about their own HIV status and safer sex," he says. When it comes to HIV and honesty, Daniel calls central PA the "United States of Denial."

Steve always met "more nice positive guys" not on a sex hunt than he did negative guys. So he "hit the pos chat rooms". He's amazed more positive men don't understand lots of negative guys are capable of "caring deeply for someone pos if given the chance". When Frank dates, he reminds himself "in loving myself, I am able to love others" and says "most guys will appreciate that and will go with the encounter".

Then What Do You Do?

Concerned about infection, John says "people expect you to be concerned, but when you get them in bed hardly anybody cares". "I generally don't use condoms", he says. Kevin "tries to use condoms" but, being human, he's "slipped a couple of times".

Richard, Seattle, WA, 50, HIV-positive for 10 years says that if positive partners express "concern" he uses condoms. He once had "a specific request not to use a condom!" He's aware of "bug chasers" who actually court infection for "a number of complex, maladjusted reasons", so he doesn't have "anal sex as a top with negative men".

For anal sex with positive guys, Frank uses condoms because "re-infection by two positive guys on different cocktails might cause drug resistance". He doesn't use condoms for oral sex. Vincenzo says despite possible re-infection, "when I'm with another pos partner, I never use condoms".

Edward prefers no condoms for oral sex, but share's Frank's fear about unprotected sex with positive partners leading to re-infection. Steve "definitely" uses condoms for anal sex with his positive partner, but it's not a big issue. He believes "there's more to a relationship than what's between a man's legs" and if you care for him "his HIV+ status is something you will be able to accept".

McKay, Walloch & Drake continued

at manhattantheatresource, 177 MacDougal Street. Written by Carl Rollyson, Anne Bobby & Helen Macleod and starring Anne Bobby, the play explores the intriguing life of a woman described in a 1947 *Time* magazine cover story as "indisputably the world's No. 1 woman writer," and by Virginia Woolf as "a cross between a gypsy and a charwoman." Tickets: www.theatermania.com;212.352.3101;reservations - 212.501.4751.

Drake hopes to stage "Agrippina" in the NYC Fringe Festival, then take it to Harrisburg, where drag thrives.

Before That Woman, Drake staged "Son of Drakula," about his Eastern European roots, which he recently toured in Zagrab, Croatia. He laughed, saying,"When I speak Serbia-Croatian in the play, the jokes really flew, whereas they fell pretty flat in New York." He has shelved this for a while.

Meanwhile, Drake appeared as the suspected Botox killer ("It wasn't me!") on Law & Order: Criminal Intent, and been directing at TOSOS II theater project where he staged "The Secret History of Drag," about Caligula's brother, Agrippina Van Hansen Cortez.

"It is about my homage to power and the mystery of drag as identity, about the pieces we pick up to choose who we are," said Drake. "'Son of Drakula'was about the authenticity of identity but Agrippina is about the creativity of identity." He hopes to stage the piece in the Fringe Festival this summer, then take it to Harrisburg, where he says the drag scene thrives.

During his last visit, Drake bemoaned Harrisburg had no gay newspaper or community center. Since then, the town has gotten both. "Thank the fairy godmother!," said Drake, adding, "I thought they needed a Center to centralize energy and information, so everyone was getting it." Drake hopes it will connect Harrisburg with Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh and increase tourism to this "darling, pretty city the river runs through."

Though all three men pursue different paths, all agree that the com-

continued below

McKay, Walloch & Drake continued

munity in Harrisburg has something truly special to offer.

"I thought there was something magical in this little town," said McKay. "There was the same intelligence and passion of a big city like LA or New York but I hope they don't emulate big cities too much, because that's the magic of walking down the little main street, by the river."

"Harrisburg has a small town feel and appearance, but a pretty large gay community, one of the largest outside of major cities," said Walloch.

"It's like a big small town in a way," echoed Drake. "The community is very tight, and shows up for each other in a beautiful way," mingling together at bars and having an intergenerational exchange. These men, from small towns themselves, celebrate that living openly no longer means having to leave your home.

"We are everywhere, especially now, with continued diminishing of homophobia. We stay and do our thing rather than gravitate to urban centers and that is great," said Drake.

"I see a gay and arts population thriving in a small town, and that is full circle of what I know about growing up in small town: If you were different, you left, and found a community in a big city," said McKay. "But it is really inspiring to see a small town where you can be a working artist, an openly gay person, and follow your passion. I hope they keep this magic alive."

MORE INFO

Golden Age of Broadway
www.broadwaythemovie.com.
www.GregWalloch.com

Business Profile

Orrico & Wagner from Domestic to Business Partners

By Adrienne Mansfield, Correspondent

Does being the only "out" gay-owned business in Williamsport hinder or harness business?

Neither. It's not the "out" part clients look at. It's the quality of the work they receive in return for their fees.

While Dale K. Wagner and R. Michael Orrico, owners of Williamsport's Orrico & Wagner Advertising were domestic partners for seven years, the end of their personal relationship did not mark the end of their business relationship. Even after breaking up, Wagner and Orrico continued to build their business as professional partners.

Typical clients include local and regional retail, banking, healthcare and educational accounts.

They met in 1992, while Wagner was was senior partner/owner at Welteroth & Wagner, a large regional advertising agency with several large national accounts. Orrico also worked at the agency.

But in 1993, Wagner and Orrico decided on a move to Washington, D.C. where they both worked for openly gay corporate advertising agency Kelly & Associates, an openly gay national exposition management firm. Wagner continued to do advertising and publication work and Orrico worked diligently as a national sales manager.

Two years later, the couple returned home to Williamsport to care for Wagner's mother and opened their new agency which attracted many of their previous clients to return. They started working out of their renovated 1860 Georgian farmhouse, soon moved to an office on Market Street in downtown Williamsport, settled in the Emery Mansion in the historic district, and finally after moving and doing much remodeling, to their current home.

"We enjoy working at home because we can work when we want to, at our own pace, and take better care of our clients because we do it personally. It pays to stay small, you make more money, and we handle only as many clients as we feel comfortable doing ourselves," Wagner said.

Orrico & Wagner Advertising is the only locally owned and operated "out" gay business in the Williamsport area. They choose to be out and tell prospects the truth about their lifestyle before they sign them on as clients. By never hiding their lifestyle, it increases both their comfort-level and that of their clients.

"We explain about being a gay-owned business up front to our clients." Orrico said. "If they have a problem, that's ok, but at least it's known with no surprises. No one has ever expressed any concern. Besides, you'd have to live under a rock to not know that we're gay, but it hasn't affected business or our social standing."

Not only are the two successful businessmen active in the economics of their city, they have sat on numerous charity boards. Wagner was president of the Williamsport-Lycoming Arts Council, while Orrico sat on the board. The list of their charitable activities include, but not limited to, Lycoming County Chapter of the American Red Cross Board of Directors, co-chairing the annual "Fete de Cuisine" fundraiser for four years, founding the Susquehanna Valley Festival of the Arts. They were also instrumental in implementing the nine-county, regional "Partners in the Arts" program. They also serve on the board of the Community Arts Center.

While Wagner and Orrico were busy organizing events, they never missed a chance to attend fundraisers - with their male escorts. "We attend all functions as out gay men. Everyone is always excited to see who we bring to the ball's and gala's. We dance with our dates with the top escheleon looking on and no one seems scandalized in the least. I'm not offended when a guy kisses his girlfriend, or a man dances with his wife, so they shouldn't care either," Wagner commented.

Their business seems almost secondary to their highly visible social standing. Their ability to be comfortable in all situations, regardless of the company around them, is a real advantage.

"We don't do things to please or imitate straight people, or act differently whether we're in a gay bar, a straight fundraiser, or at home. They don't pay our bills or share our bed, and so it doesn't matter what anyone thinks," Wagner went on.

Being true to themselves has had a positive impact on their business, which continues to grow and flourish. If you'd like to get any more information on Orrico & Wagner Advertising, go to www.orrico&wagner.com.

Orrico & Wagner
ADVERTISING MARKETING, LLC

Artist Ryan Stroup to Open Gallery; Featured at 2nd Floor Gallery in April

By Michael Chapaloney, Associate Editor

Burgeoning art communities grow one gallery, one artist, one creation at a time. We give you artist Ryan Stroup of Camp Hill. The 23-year-old has an established ability to create. If all goes as planned, Stroup will open his own gallery in the Harrisburg area in coming months. Graduating in 2002 from Elizabethtown College, Stroup earned a bachelor's degree in art. He works mostly with acrylic paints and mixed media on his creations, does some photography, and likes to work with ceramics when facilities provide. Ryan cleared some time from his busy palette to talk with *Alternative Central* about his work, his inspiration and what is in the big picture for his career.

"I'm working on opening the R. Stroup Gallery," Ryan Stroup says.

Alternative Central: At what age did you know you wanted to be an artist? And, what prompted this decision?

Ryan Stroup: Ever since I was little I have always been into the arts. However, when I started college I was a biology and pre-med major. My major switched to history and finally to art.

AC: Which artists have inspired, or inspire you?

RS: Carol Galligan of Lancaster, my Elizabethtown painting professor. She inspired my abstract painting style; previously I focused on realism. Another would be Milt Friedly of Elizabethtown. And, Jackson Pollock who inspired physical or action painting.

AC: How would you describe your abstract painting style?

RS: It is contemporary and non-objective without a major subject. They are non-representational.

AC: What do you look for in a great photography?

RS: I'm looking for strong composition, strong lines or form. It's not my main focus, but I use it when I don't want to use paint or when I feel the photograph is the best means of capturing the image.

AC: Tell us about your plans to open a gallery.

RS: I'm working on opening a gallery; it is now just a matter of timing and location. I would like it to be a modern contemporary art gallery focusing on primarily local artist with painting, ceramics, glasswork and some sculpture. I would like to open mid to late spring.

AC: Have you settled on a name?

RS: Yes, the R. Stroup Gallery.

AC: Where has your work been exhibited up until now?

RS: I currently have work in the Freehand Gallery in Lemoyne, the 2nd Floor Gallery in Mechanicsburg, and at the Art Association of Harrisburg. Previously I have showed in the William Ris Gallery in Camp Hill and the former 10th Muse in Harrisburg.

AC: How has your work evolved?

RS: I started with realism and landscape painting which evolved into abstract and working with color composition. I like to play around with various mediums and take different approaches.

AC: What are some of your favorite subjects to paint or incorporate into your work?

RS: I like to incorporate themes, especially if I have a personal connection.

AC: Is it possible to not have a personal connection?

RS: If my painting is based on a color combination I don't have a personal connection. I let it change and evolve to create a visually appealing piece. Sometimes I'm trying to create tension…or make them disturbing. Sometimes tension is good.

AC: Tell us about some of your awards or accolades as an artist.

RS: Elizabethtown College created a Sept. 11 art exhibit. At the conclusion of the showing the college purchased one of my pieces to be a part of the permanent campus collection. This exhibit took place after my graduation.

AC: What advise do you have for young artist or those with an interest?

RS: Definitely stick with it. Don't lock yourself into one style, explore others that are out there. You are trying to find a style to fit you. Try to get your work out there and don't be frustrated.

AC: What would you say to the parents of a child who says to them, "I want to be an artist."

RS: Don't hinder them from something they are passionate for. [If

continued on page 15

Gay Footage Stays in Federal Parks

by Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network

Footage of gay rights demonstrations will not be removed from a videotape shown at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C, according to spokespeople from the National Park Service and the Human Rights Campaign. Earlier reports in various news outlets said the gay images would be removed.

In a recent press release, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), a government-watchdog group, said that because of pressure from conservative groups, the National Park Service agreed to remove from the tape all scenes depicting gay and abortion rights rallies.

"The Park Service leadership now caters exclusively to conservative Christian fundamentalist groups," PEER executive director Jeff Ruch said in the release.

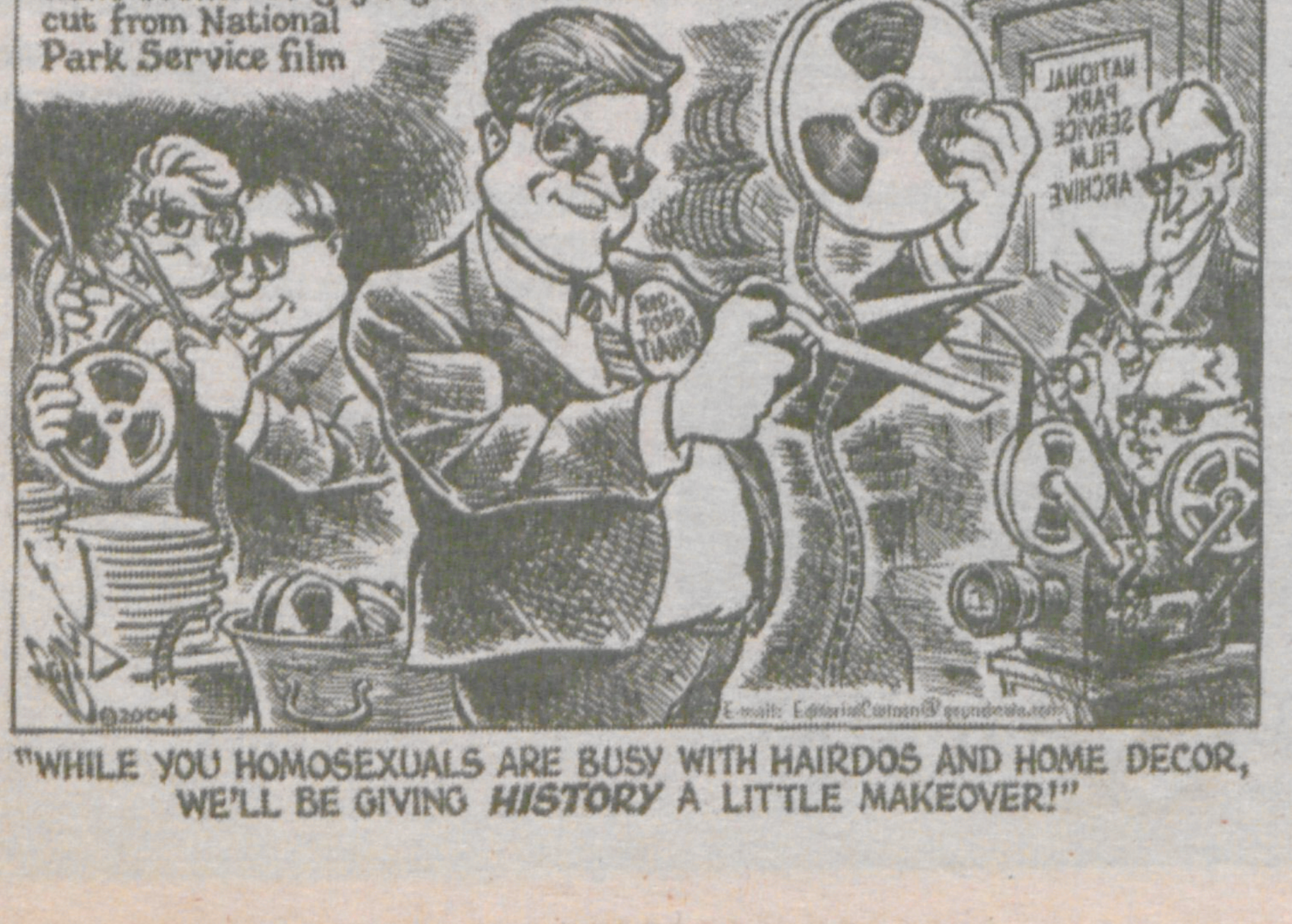
But today that story has changed.

"We have been assured that they are redoing the tape, but are not stripping out scenes of gay and lesbian events at the Lincoln Memorial, because to do so would be historically inaccurate," said Winne Stachelberg, political director at the Human Rights Campaign, a national gay rights group. Stachelberg told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network that National Park Service Chief of Public Affairs, David Barna, made those reassurances to her.

"It certainly sounds as if the park service is getting pressure from right-wing extremists groups to drop images of the gay community and add other images," Stachelberg added.

As part of its update, the National Park Service plans to add scenes including rallies by the Promise Keepers, a fundamentalist Christian men's group, and by pro-life groups to the video.

To do so, however, may not be historically accurate after all. Those rallies did not occur at the Lincoln Memorial or even on the nearby Mall, said Bill Line, a spokesperson for the National Park Service.


NEWS ITEM: Republicans, religious right want scenes of gay rights and AIDS activists cut from National Park Service film
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FILM ARCHIVE
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"WHILE YOU HOMOSEXUALS ARE BUSY WITH HAIRDOS AND HOME DECOR, WE'LL BE GIVING *HISTORY* A LITTLE MAKEOVER!"

News page continued

pointed out in a meeting, that person doesn't receive anything.

"I know there are people out there who have life partners, or are in a gay marriage, and this policy is very discriminatory of people in that position," Gallisdorfer commented.

When she was informed by Township Solicitor James Scheffey and Township Manager David Paulsen that they were only following Pennsylvania law, Gallisdorfer remained undeterred. "Well, I think that state law is wrong, and I think we should challenge that law. I think we should take it up with Harrisburg," she said.

Paulsen answered Gallisdorfer by urging the commissioners to accept the insurance bid "so we can get a safety net in place." His comments were joined by Solicitor Scheffey who explained that for a state law to be challenged, "someone with standing," in other words one who had been discriminated against by the law, would have to sue the state. "Well, I hope they do," Gallisdorfer said.

Gallisdorfer failed to get a majority of the board to agree to send a letter to the region's state representatives asking for a change in the law to guarantee the same privileges to same-sex couples. "Maybe the state thinks they're not married, but in their eyes, they are," she told the Pottstown Mercury. "Marriage is in the eyes of the people involved."

In the end, the commission did agree to a suggestion made by Paulsen that they write a letter to their state representatives asking them to propose an amendment to the law which would allow officers to designate the beneficiaries of their policies.

Scranton Passes Gay-positive Ordinance

by Ted S. Martin

Scranton City Council late last year became the ninth Pennsylvania municipality to include "sexual orientation" and the eighth to cover "gender identity" in local laws. Both categories were included in a human relations ordinance passing unanimously.

Scranton Mayor Chris Doherty signed the proposal that prohibits discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations.

The ordinance's passage came from Doherty's efforts to re-invigorate Scranton's Human Relations Commission. Originally formed in 1972 to address housing discrimination, sexual orientation and gender identity issues did not fall within the commission's purview. According to commission member Michael Hanley, United Neighborhood Centers, the group only met once and he claims that its makeup and responsibilities did not meet federal guidelines.

Hanley said the commission's revival started about two years ago when community members began to meet to discuss area hate groups. He claims that some of those involved at the time were shocked at the commission's apparent inaction.

Once in office, Doherty supported improvements within the commission. He began by appointing new members. Commenting to the local media on inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in Scranton's ordinance language, Doherty pointed to the larger impact such changes in law can have on the outside world. "It says something about who we are as a community, that we are tolerant of others."

Scranton's ordinance was patterned after legislation passed by Allentown in 2002. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has no state-wide law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and few places recognize and protect domestic partners.

Currently, the County of Erie; the Cities of Allentown, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and York; as well as, the Borough of New Hope all have inclusive human relations ordinances prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations. Only Lancaster's Ordinance does not include gender identity. The Borough of State College has an ordinance that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation only in the area of housing.

South Allison Hill MultiCultural Festival May 1

On May 1 the Weed & Seed the Targeted Area Local Leaders Team known as TALL, Penn State Main and Harrisburg Campuses, and the Community Action Commission host a MultiCultural Festival on Harrisburg's South Allison Hill.

The year's festival theme is "Putting The Neighbor Back In The Hood". The event Includes a Parade and provides increased cultural awareness and community pride through a fun-filled day.

TALL Team members invite persons from all City of Harrisburg neighborhoods and people from outside the city. Individuals interested in participating, in or outside of South Allison Hill, contact Danna Gonzalez-McIntire, Community Action Commission, 717- 232-9750 ext. 117; dmcintire@cactricounty.org or danna1267@hotmail.com; www.cactricounty.org.

continued on the next page

13 Quick Questions for Rita Mae Brown

Dr. Rita Mae Brown is many things. None of them is ordinary.

The Hanover native's six-page resume cites novels, essays, poetry collections and screenplays - some of which earned Emmy nominations.

Her first novel is the lesbian classic, *Rubyfruit Jungle*. Her newest novel, *Whisker of Evil,* is the latest in her Mrs. Murphy mystery series. The series details the adventures of talking cat Mrs. Murphy and her human companion. Brown's cat Sneaky Pie is listed on the cover as the co-author of this series.

Brown is currently residing on a Charlottesville, Va. farm, where she plays polo and is a master of foxhounds for the Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Club (No, she doesn't kill the foxes. She admires them too much.)

Alternative Central associate editor Lisa Granite encountered Brown at Gettysburg College late last year. "She seems slightly more alive than everyone else in the room," Granite said at the time.

Here Brown talks to Granite.

AC: First, the most important question: How's Sneaky Pie doing?

RMB: Great!

AC: Please define the term "literary rabble-rouser." [in title of her autobiography *Rita Will: Memoir of a Literary Rabble-Rouser*]

B: The [publisher] came up with that. Guess they meant I can light a match to the woodpile.

AC: It's been 20 years since Rubyfruit Jungle was published. In your view, how is the lesbian community different now, or does it seem pretty much the same?

B: Same sex unions are more acceptable. Life is healthier. There's work to be done, but things are better.

AC: In your opinion, what has been the most important change in the lgbt landscape?

B: Lipstick lesbians and muscle bound beach boys. HOT! HOT! HOT!

AC: You're a prolific writer. Do you ever take a look at that huge stack of writing and say to yourself, "How did I come up with all that?"

B: No, I don't look back.

AC: You've made it Aquite clear that you think we humans are really nothing special compared to animals. So, then, what creature IS the "pinnacle of evolution?"

B: The cat, of course.

AC: What has been the best moment/time in your life so far?

B: There isn't a single moment — even the painful ones — when I'm not grateful for life. However, foxhunting is about perfect.

AC: If you were forced to change careers now, what would you want to do?

B: Farm, which I do anyway, but in a small way.

AC: As a writer who is also a lesbian, have you encountered any problems during your career that were a result of you being gay?

B: Still do. You don't see me getting any awards, do you?

AC: Tell me what you did/are doing today.

B: Up at 5:30 a.m. Feed house pets. Get to my desk. Push away from the desk at noon and down to the barn and kennels. The house at sundown to catch up on phone calls and mail — the ever-growing avalanche of mail.

AC: What is your favorite book?

B: As I read 3-4 books a week, I'm hard pressed to pick a favorite. I love Turgenev, Aristophanes, Tolstoy, Twain.

AC: The gay marriage debate is heating up with the recent decision in Massachusetts. What are your views on the issue?

B: If Lisa Marie Presley could marry Michael Jackson, anyone should be able to marry anyone!

AC: What's your best fox hunting tip?

B: Give your horse his/her head.

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APRIL:
GAY.COM PARTY -APRIL 2ND at 9PM
GRAND REOPENING WEEKEND -APRIL 2-4TH SHOW at 9PM ON THE 4TH
-EASTER -APRIL 7TH

News page continued

SPARC Names Conlan Executive Director

Scott E. Conlan of Philadelphia began duties as as SPARC's executive director January 2 following a nationwide search.

"Fresh from helping win Hate Crimes legislation, members of SPARC have already made it one of the 3-4 most successful statewide federations of lgbt groups in the country; Conlan with his experience and enthusiasm will help lead the organization to further victories," said SPARC Co-Chair, Michael Snow of Pittsburgh.

Conlan will coordinate the organization's civil rights activism through his organization's coalition members, including the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights, PA-GALA, the ACLU, and the Gertrude Stein Political Club.

Deborah Sieger, the organization's co-chair from Kutztown, said, "Conlan has the energy and commitment to lgbt issues to help direct the organizations and individuals who constitute SPARC to new levels of community development and social action to assure the full equality of all the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

SPARC is the largest network of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender individuals and organizations in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The organization fights for full civil rights by educating the public, elected officials, and the media about lgbt issues.

Harrisburg Men's Chorus Seeks Artistic Director and Singers

Harrisburg Men's Chorus is looking for an Artistic Director and new members.

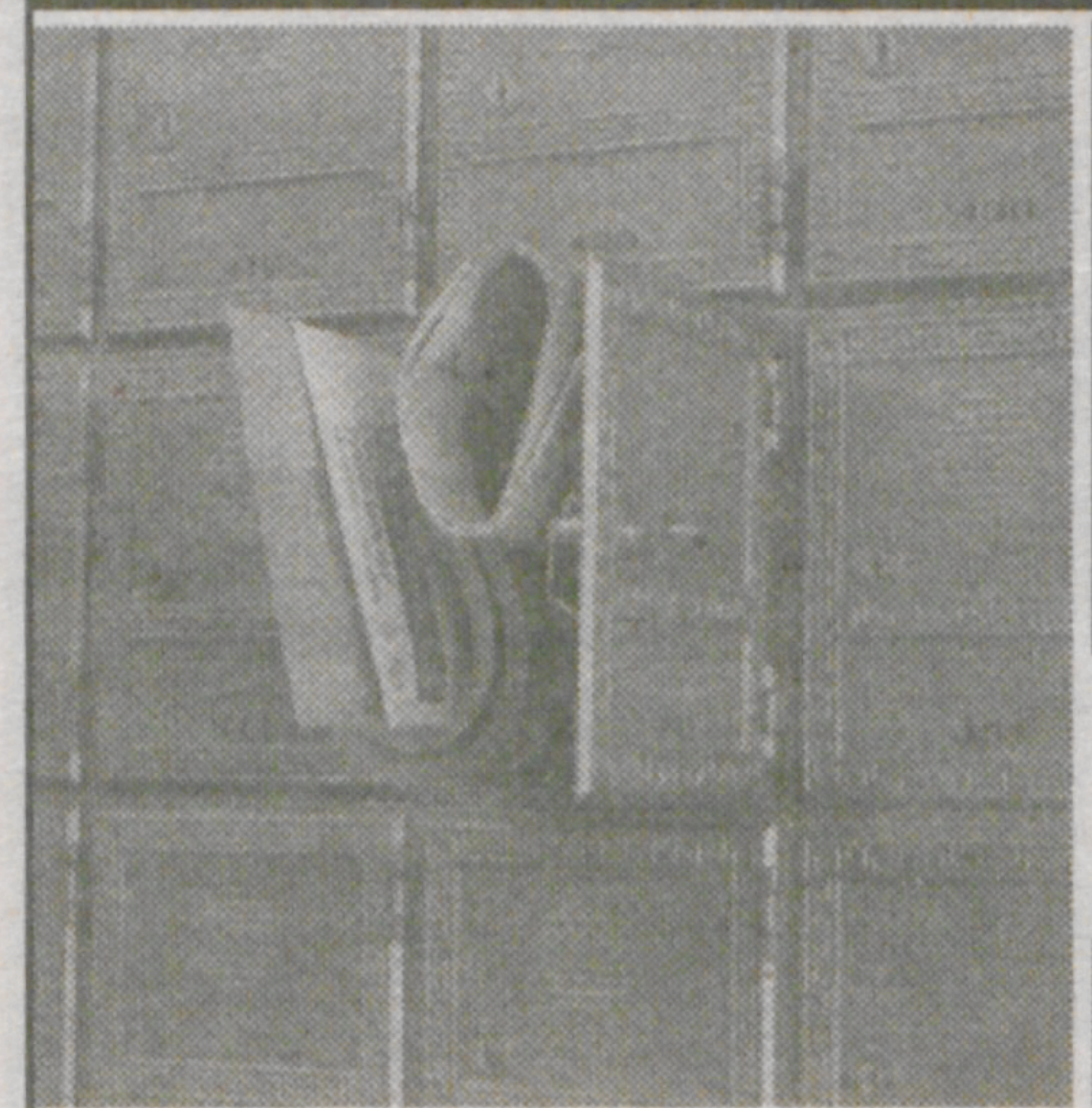
Founded in 1987, the chorus is resident choral company of Harrisburg's Whitaker Center. The group needs assistance with rehearsals, performances, fundraising, and administration. Interested individuals may contact David Payne (DPayne22@hotmail.com), Tim Coleman, 433-0184, or Marvin Mernick, 757-2428.

The group reaches out to all communities within central Pennsylvania. For the lgbt community, it provides an opportunity for gay-supportive men to build community spirit by singing together.

The chorus has literally traveled from one end of the country to the other to perform -from New York City's Carnegie Hall to the Civic Auditorium in San Jose, CA.

The group has also hosted and performed with several nationally acclaimed performers like opera soprano Marilyn Horne, jazz singer, songwriter, actress Ann Hampton Callaway and singer, songwriter Judy Collins.

The Harrisburg Men's Chorus was founded in 1987 by Bernie Pupo in memory of Joe Tucci, who's dream it was to see an all male chorus in the City of Harrisburg.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Supporters of President

A young child's perspective on no child left behind

Anne Lyon, long time child advocate and friend

Members of progressive faith community w/ message for the President

Young people w/ message for the President

A strong union supporter

Women's rights activist

People invited to see the President leaving the parking lot

Protesters corralled during President's visit

Ike Gittlen from Steelworkers Union

Anti-war protesters

Industrial crowd control

Members of Harrisburg community with messages for President

Ambivalent message

Common Roads Sponsors "Greater Tuna"; Wins Arts Grant

Common Roads (CR) will present the hilarious comedy "Greater Tuna" at the Capitol Dinner Theater, 1300 Wayne Street, Harrisburg on Saturday April 24. All proceeds will benefit Common Roads, Inc., central PA's only lgbtq youth center, says executive director Carol Reisinger.

"Greater Tuna" takes place in Tuna, Texas "where everyone is welcome - even Catholics!" So begins the saga of the little town in Texas that takes a politically incorrect shot at every bigot anyone has ever known. Town residents include Klan leader, Elmer Watkins, Sheriff Givens, Aunt Pearl Bumiller, the local wacko, Vera Carp (every church has one) and the school.

Tickets are $35.00 with dinner included. Group tables and single tickets are available by calling 717-920-9534.

CR was recently awarded a Jump Street Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Grant to complete a mural depicting contributions made to society by lgbtq pioneers. To create the moveable mural, CR will work with local artist Patti Gilmartin.

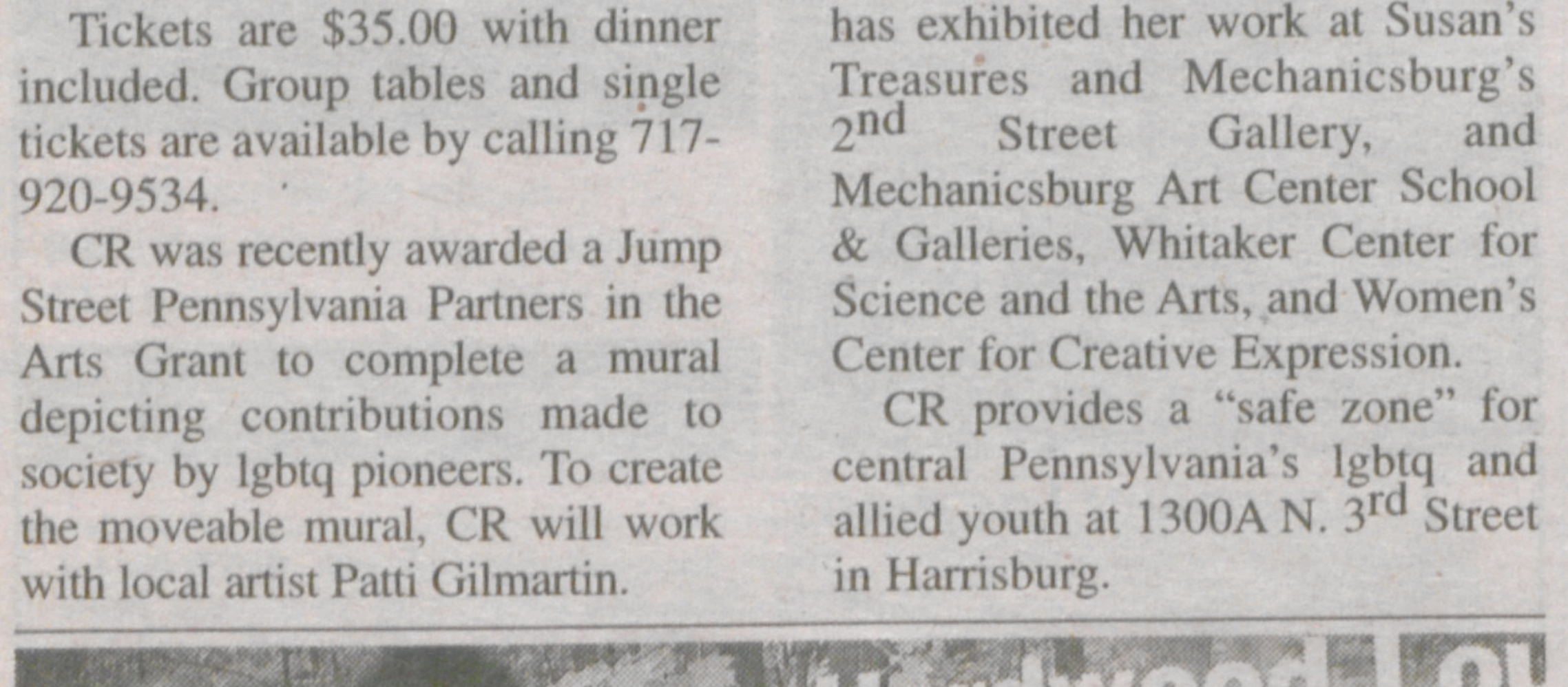
"We're going to help youth gain more self-confidence and self-esteem by discovering how lgbtq individuals and community leaders have and can influence civil rights, arts, and politics," Reisinger says. The mural will present historical figures like Martina Navratilova, Oscar Wilde, Harvey Milk, Bayard Rustin, Walt Whitman, and Virginia Woolf.

The Jump Street Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Program funds the project and guarantees its growth and evolution after the actual painting process is completed.

The finished mural will be supplemented by a handbook which will be used to raise awareness about those depicted.

Gilmartin teaches art locally and has exhibited her work at Susan's Treasures and Mechanicsburg's 2nd Street Gallery, and Mechanicsburg Art Center School & Galleries, Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts, and Women's Center for Creative Expression.

CR provides a "safe zone" for central Pennsylvania's lgbtq and allied youth at 1300A N. 3rd Street in Harrisburg.



Central Sighting – International House, Harrisburg – One of 14 wordlwide, Harrisburg's International House, called IHOUSE, hosted Harrisburg Area Community College South Korean students Hyeyeon Jung, Kwang-hoon Lee, Yea-Sil Park, and Hyeyoung Lim. Harrisburg Young Professionals sponsored the event. Information at www.ihousehbg.org.

Romance is Dead... and My Gun's Still Loaded

By Hayden Shelley

When Cupid strikes, there is a certainty of things to come - birds chirping, red rose petals, hearts aflutter, bad poetry that rhymes, and enchanting music. Everything starts out as planned - the lovers meet, the chemistry sparkles, all that other good stuff.

There is a sense of destiny, fate, and all those other words that seem beyond our comprehension at any other time except when their presence is felt. Stars align and the rest of the universe conspires to bring love to its rightful owners. If we're lucky, there is a visit to Crate and Barrel in our future, and shortly thereafter, a registry of some sort.

Like choreography, the dance of two people in love follows a carefully orchestrated flow, whether it be in the form of a Friday night date (a tango) or an evening alone in front of the television (a slow dance) or lying in bed while memorizing the shape of one another (a lambada).

A rush of feelings overwhelms. There is the excitement of what may come. There is an underlying fear of having something so magical slip through one's hands. There are sweaty palms relaying a message of nervousness. Love, a mixture of all those emotions, brings out those feelings sometimes all at once and other times just one at a time, all the while in that graceful choreography that seemingly permeates through everything.

Then suddenly - cue the lightning - without warning, the balance is thrown off, and with it the excitement dissipating and the fear escalating. The audience knows that the end is coming, and in a series of events, they watch as one tries to keep the secrets buried while the other spends time either in delusion or in search of clues. It all ends the same - a broken heart here, a confrontation there, separate beds, more baggage for the train ride home, and some drama reminiscent of a bad soap opera.

There are the questions. What went wrong? Were there clues? Is it easy to fall out of love as easily as it seems to fall in love? Did I look before leaping? Did I accidentally squeeze the toothpaste from the middle?

As you're well aware from countless big budget movies, every hero needs a counterpart - a villain, nemesis, archenemy if you will. Sometimes the villains are successful in their evil plots, and sometimes they are never seen or heard from again, usually due to going over budget and not making enough in box office returns. Or maybe, the hero is Ben Affleck, and as laughable as that is, you just know there won't be a sequel.

And so, while our hero known as Cupid, diaper and all, might be successful in his pursuits to bring love to the masses, there is his enemy not far behind, screwing things up big time so that lovers become the jaded little messes that they are. His spells can make the strongest of men cry right in front of your face, telling you that he just isn't as ready for a serious relationship as he once thought.

Would-be lovers might meet your gaze one night at a bar, only to go home with someone far less attractive and missing a few strands of hair. He is the devil at your shoulder, asking you why you would want to be seen with someone who waits tables of Friday's.

The battle between good and evil is an ever-present one that takes it toll on many of us. In the beginning, these wounds may inflict some pain, but we have this resilience and an inner voice telling us that there are plenty of fish in the sea. After a while though, after we are tricked for the unteenth time, we begin to harden, and all that money we might spend on flowers and Valentine's cards, we spend on things like Paxil and a therapist's bill, all the while collectively screaming Why me as if we were Nancy Kerrigan. Evil prevails, and Cupid gives up his matchmaking skills because we're too jaded to let him set us up anymore. Romance is officially dead.

However, there are always the possibility of love. We watch episodes of Jerry Springer where guys with two heads date two unattractive, but well-meaning women, and we say to ourselves - hey, if it can happen for two-headed Sammy, then maybe I, too, have a prince out there somewhere.

We see people in the park kissing, and before we yell over to them to get a room, we find ourselves in a moment of weakness, hoping that one day we might touch the lips of someone just as eager for public displays of affection. We watch romantic movies in the dark, a guilty pleasure we won't admit to, but do out of ritual just the same.

Though we're not aware, Cupid sees this. And just when love is the last thing on our minds, here it comes, in the form of some arrow with better precision than William Tell. Evil loses. Love prevails. And archrivals like Ben and Jen postpone their nuptials because in the end, they realize that nothing else can compare to the love we've found. The world is envious. Jerry Springer is calling, hoping to book us for his next segment. Love on tour, in all its splendor. The last dance... last chance for love.

Black & Gay in America:
Mr. Gay Pennsylvania 2003 Michael Tindell

By Eric Ledell Smith

At Strawberry 704's Karaoke Night patrons say," "Gosh, that guy sings the hell out of an Aretha Franklin song."

That guy is Michael Tindell. He's Mr. Gay Pennsylvania 2003 and he charms crowds with a lustrous tenor voice and stage presence. He's a soulful balladeer in the tradition of Luther Vandross, Marvin Gaye, and Al Green.

Like other black singers, Mike began by singing at home and in church.

"My family used to listen to Aretha Franklin and Elvis Presley along with others. I used to go to church at United House of Prayer here in Harrisburg. As far as I can remember, all we did was sing."

But Mike will also tell you, "it's funny but I don't enjoy being in the limelight. I'm basically a shy person." The first African American man to be "Mr. Gay Harrisburg" and "Mr. Gay Pennsylvania," Mike has always been in the limelight at one time or another.

He graduated from Harrisburg High in 1977. Then he worked as a Barbizon model and EK technician at Harrisburg Hospital before finally becoming a beautician. He earned a bachelors' degree in cosmetology from Dudley University in North Carolina.

In the 1990s, Mike teamed with his friend George White to open a beauty salon called "George Michael's Salon." Although the shop was relatively successful, in 1997 Mike left Harrisburg for Washington DC where he worked for BET (Black Entertainment Television) and Washington area beauty shops. "It was fun being in DC," recalls Mike. "But I missed my father and mother and friends in Harrisburg. So I came back in 1999 and opened "Tindell's Hair Spa."

Everyone has their own story of when and how they discovered their gay identity. So *Alternative Central* put that question to Mike.

"I've always known since I was little that I was gay. I got into the gay community when I was young. But because I was self-centered and just into being 'me,' I didn't understand what was going on in the community."

Then in 1989 one of Mike's friends died from AIDS. It was at that point, Mike says that "I opened my eyes and saw what was going on outside of my world." Mike and his business partner George White got together and performed an AIDS benefit concert in Hershey. Over 300 people attended and Mike and George were able to raise $2,000 for the AIDS Community Alliance.

Another benefit event would set Mike on his way to becoming Mr. Gay Pennsylvania. "I gave a benefit for the homeless in Market Square and invited people from all walks of life to come to the Brownstone Lounge for my birthday celebration. Karen and Dave had just bought the Brownstone and we had our very first drag show and raised about $700 for the homeless program run by Greater Zion Baptist Church."

Karen and Dave also started a "Mr. Brownstone" contest. Mike entered in the first contest but did not win. He tried again in 2001 and to his surprise he was named "Mr. Brownstone." From then on, Mike was constantly in the limelight.

"I had to run for the title of "Mr. Gay Harrisburg." But I found out just two hours before show time. They said there was a big crowd expecting a contest and show and they begged me to do it. So I went home and got myself together and came back and lo and behold I won that night. With the title, Mike received $250, a medallion and a plaque. He looks back on those days with fondness. "It was a very good reign. I got a chance to meet so many people. Governor Rendell invited me to his inauguration parade and dinner." Winning a title didn't change Mike a bit. "I was doing benefits before I won those titles. But the titles gave me a plat-

continued on page 17

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DVD Review:
Wallowitch & Ross: This Moment

"They don't make 'em like these guys anymore," said one invited guest to the TriBeCa private screening of "Wallowitch & Ross: This Moment" attended by Alternative Central.

Now out on DVD, the popular documentary-biopic has been released with additional footage, making it even more entertaining and indispensable. Directed by Richard Morris, the film examines a three-decade long partnership, both onstage and in life, of singer/songwriter John Wallowitch and the late Bertram Ross.

Ross is best known as Martha Graham's principal dancer for almost thirty years. The two men had performed together as a cabaret duo up until Bertram's passing last year. The movie features clips of them onstage and around the living room piano where they display a remarkable ease and joyful chemistry.

The documentary is also an important historical document because it contains Ross's reminiscences of working with Graham (the DVD features several outtakes not included in the original film, including more material focusing on his years with Graham). "This Moment" is vastly entertaining and full of poignant remembrances, including Wallowitch, Ross, and friends (you want to see who else is in the film, here and there), all caroling in front of Irving Berlin's home and getting invited inside. Although a wonderful story of New York City's bygone days, W&R is as compelling now as those times were then.

The DVD, which can be ordered by visiting www.wallowitchandross.com/06.asp, contains extra songs and interviews and comes with a soundtrack to the documentary.

For other Talkin' Broadway picks visit: http://www.talkinbroadway.com/sound/dec0403.html.

Mitrani

Central Sightings – Harrisburg – Mitrani at Home, 321 North 2nd Street, Harrisburg, 717-238 3176, offers furniture, rugs, lighting and accessories from many different countries. Owner Albert Mitrani says, "Our customers love our leather chairs". Hours: Mon.-Thurs.11 a.m-6 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-9p.m.

Sound OFF CENTRAL

Compliment or Complain

send us your thoughts anonymously or with your name.

I'm tired of hearing about how great Starbucks is. Cornerstone and Sparky & Clark's both have better coffee, hands down, plus you're supporting local business.

Just wanted to say farewell to the best shop downtown, The 10th Muse. You will be missed.

How nice of Senator Jeff Piccola and his colleagues to take the longest time in the history of the Pennsylvania General Assembly to pass a budget – and then I read about Piccola recommending "performance" standards for teachers. Way to go sailor!

I certainly hope the lbgt community pays close attention to the records, comments, proposals and actions of all those running for office. Gay people need to be more vigilant now more than ever about protecting our progress. A US President threatening us with our very own Constitution should scare the bejesus out of anyone with half a brain - gay or straight. Let's avoid being made the scapegoat by working together to know the issues and VOTING!

Ever since you started Alternative Central, other publications in the region can't find a gay story they don't like. Amazing.

We're very glad to have Alternative Central on campus (Wilson College)…thanks for that.

It's nice to see high schools like Lebanon's Cedar Crest – finally – make a positive message by allowing a Gay/Straight Alliance alongside all the other school groups. The Alliance will give kids on the fence an alternative point of view to the bonehead (and probably closeted and overcompensating) Neanderthals who calls kids fags and dykes.

Looks to me like Harrisburg Mayor Stephen Reed did City Council's homework by solving the budget crisis without a tax increase or a single layoff. Instead of being "elated", maybe council President Richard House should be "embarrassed.

Great news for kids in Big Spring (Newville) School District. How can anyone argue against an "anti-bullying" policy in today's dumb-down world?

My granny used to tell me: The more you complain, the longer God lets you live. I guess that's why they seem to live so long around here.

What's up with all the married (to women) guys in central PA who have guys on the side? It's like 1957 around here. The chat rooms are full of them! Bet they don't play safe either and then run home to big hair.

Leo Tolstoy wrote "What a strange illusion it is to suppose that beauty is goodness." This may explain all the celebrity hoopla trails and the "queer eye" phenomena. Ever hit the local bars on a Saturday night? You want some of those guys redecorating your living room?

BOOK Review

Information provided by Forever Books, 41 N. Front Street, Steelton (939-5507), Central PA's only gay & lesbian bookstore.

Stone Butch Blues

by Sarah Waters

Woman's or man? That's the question that rages like a storm around Jess Goldberg, clouding her life and her identity. Growing up differently gendered in a blue—color town in the 1950"s, coming out as a butch in the bars and factories of the prefeminist '60s, deciding to pass as a man in order to survive when she is left without work or a community in the early '70s. This powerful, provocative and deeply moving novel sees Jess coming full circle, she learns to accept the complexities of being a transgendered person in a world demanding simple explanations: a he-she emerging whole, weathering the turbulence. Leslie Feinburg is also the author of Trans Liberation, Trans Gender Warriors and Transgender Liberation, and is a noted activist and speaker on transgender issues.

Tipping the Velvet

by Sarah Waters

The heroine of Sarah Water's audacious first novel knows her destiny. Her place is in her father's seaside restaurant, singing all the while. "Although I didn't long believe the story told to me by Mother —that they had found me as a baby in an oyster-shell, and greedy customer had almost eaten me for lunch—for eighteen years I never doubted my own oysterish sympathies, never looked far beyond my father's kitchen for occupation, or for love." At night Nancy Astley often ventures to the nearby music hall, not that has illusions of being more than an audience member. But the moment she spies a new male impersonator—still something of a curiosity in England circa 1888— her years of innocence come to an end and a life of transformations begins.

Passion Marks:
A Novel

by Lee A. Hayes

A gifted young writer makes literary debut in this haunting and powerful novel about a gay black man grappling with his sins from the past - and with the dream lover who turns out to be the lover from hell.

In Tall Cotton

by Charles G. Hulse

Longing to escape an atmosphere heavy with his father's growing restlessness and his mother's gradual withdrawal, Totsy loses himself in the secret thrill of experimentation with his peers. Everything changes when an unexpected encounter plunges him into an adult world more alien, than the ever-changing view beyond his window. Now his forbidden stirring - shrouded in layers of shame and guilt - force Totsy to face a difficult lesson about growing up, about love and trust, and about being a man .

Theatre Roundup

Dutch Apple Theatre Presents "Jesus Christ Superstar

Before Phantom of the Opera and CATS, Andrew Lloyd Webber's first smash hit musical Jesus Christ Superstar made its debut in New York City. That was 25 years ago. Back by popular demand, the groundbreaking and dazzling production returns to Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre now through March 27.

Superstar tells the story of Jesus' last seven days through contemporary music.. "It's the kind of show you'll never forget, because it forever changed the way many of us looked at the life of Jesus Christ," says Escape entertainment Guide's Janeen Costello.

Director and choreographer Ann Neiman returns for this production which varies greatly from the movie version in that the show is present more pageant-like. "The story of Christ's final days set to music may seem to be an odd marriage initially. There is, however, a link – just as Christ and His philosophies were considered revolutionary, so it is with rock music and its departure from the norm," Neiman says.

Audiences praised Prathers' previous production of Superstar. The ending "brought every member of the audience to his feet," wrote Frank Wagner in The Islander.

John Ashely portrays the coveted role of Jesus. He recently played Kinickie in Phoenix Productions' national tour of Grease. Corwyn Hodge returns in the role of Judas in he shows the absolute depth of emotions Judas must have felt as he betrayed Christ. A veteran stage actor, Hodge also sings in the quartet Southern Komfort which has performed with Pattie LaBelle, Gladys Knight, and Toni Braxton.

Tracy Hodge plays the role of Mary Magdelene.

Tickets are $36.50-$42.00 for dinner and show. Information at 717-898-1900 or 510 Centerville Rd, Lancaster.

Update: Theatre Harrisburg's "Pippin" Superb

Michael Zorger is a regional treasure. His "Pippin" at Theatre Harrisburg is electric, funny, and finely crafted. He's bound for Broadway. Choreographer Judy Williams Henry and her company dancers executed the best portrayal of Bob Fosse choreography for many miles around. Bravo! Running now through March 7 at Whitaker Center, 717.214.ARTS.

Artist Ryan Stroup continued

they do hinder them] they may end up with an adult that is unhappy with what they are doing. Allow them to be who they are. My parents actually pushed me to be an art major. They are very supportive of my art career.

AC: What is your reaction to the stereotype that the majority of artists are gay or bisexual?

RS: I think that is a very inaccurate stereotype, a huge stereotype. It would be more accurate that most gays and bisexuals are creative, but not that most artists are gay or bisexual. I don't know how the stereotype came about. Maybe just because a large number of those that are famous are; that may be the [cause of] the stereotype.

AC: Do you work with any other areas of art?

RS: I do some poetry and songwriting, and I play the guitar. I started playing guitar in college.

AC: What is it like seeing your work displayed in someone's home?

RS: Oh, wow. I feel like I'm accomplishing…that my career goals are being accomplished.

AC: In addition to the opening of your gallery, what's next for Ryan Stoup?

RS: I will be the featured artist in the 2nd Floor Gallery in April including and open reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on April 17.

2nd Floor Gallery 105 S. Market St. Mechanicsburg 717-697-0502
www.2ndfloorgallery.com

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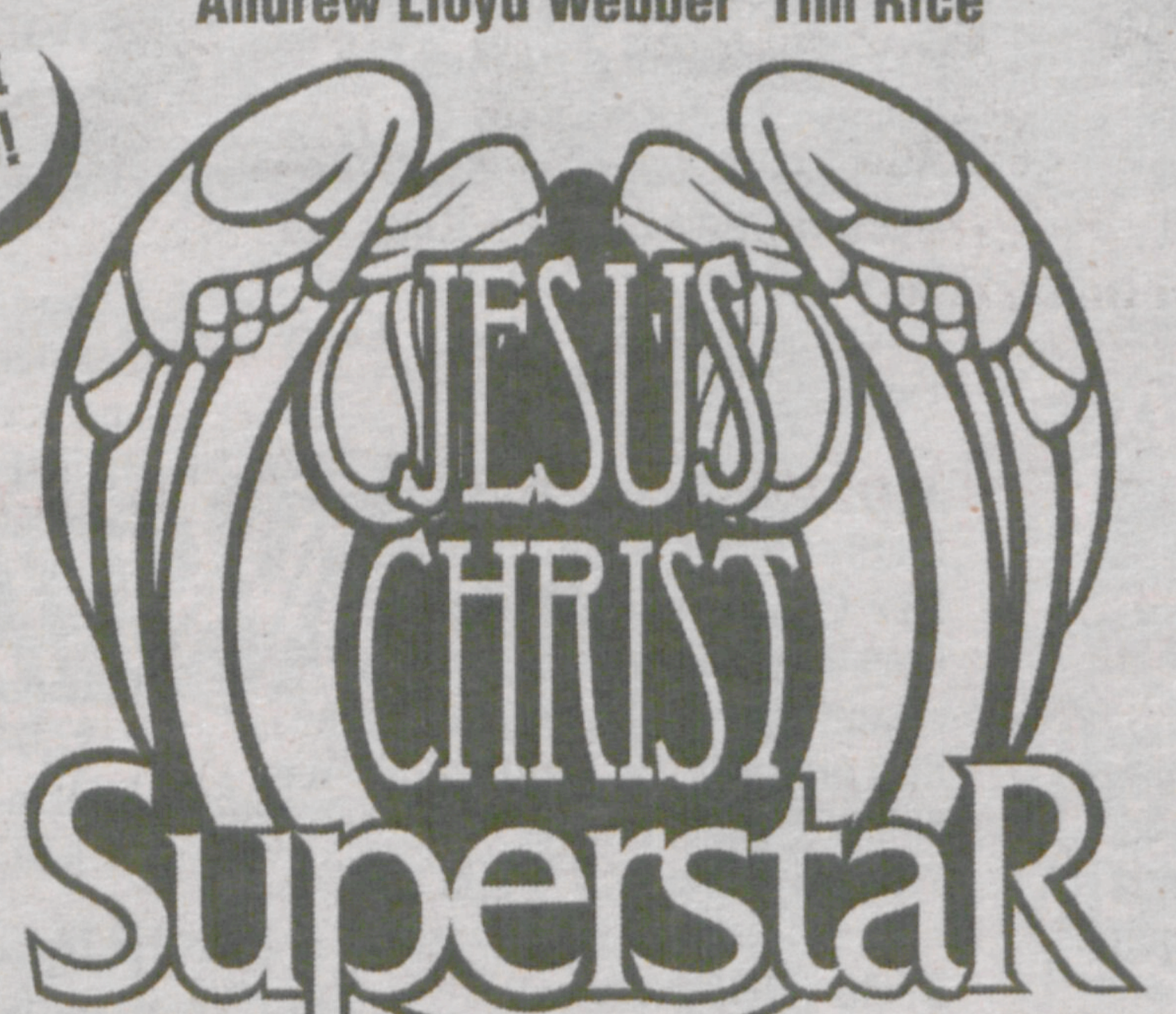

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Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc.
AskGLSH.org
Hours: M-F 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
717.234.0328
Get Connected to your Community

Community Calendar

Let everyone know your events! AC publishes information on events free of charge. Please have your events posted on the form provided at *info@askglsh.org* by the 1st of the month prior to the publication of the next issue. AC is published every other month beginning in January.

March 06, 2004, Susquehanna Club - Annual Banquet, 6:00 p.m, Lancaster, PA, at the Rockford Plantation. Potluck style banquet - make and bring your favorite dish. This is the only time we all get together at once! New and non-members welcome. Come be a happy camper. Bring a potluck dish. Website: www.susq.org

March 14, 2004, 5:00 p.m.,
Pennsmen: Monthly meeting
704 N. Third Street Harrisburg, PA 17101, Anyone interested in getting to know more about The Pennsmen are welcome to attend our monthly business meetings, held at the 704 Strawberry. Contact: Steve James at 717.232.3785. Email: sejames81664@comcast.net, Website: www.pennsmen.org

March 27, 2004, 8:00 p.m.,
Womyn's Chorus: With Love from Us to You
Our Unique Valentine's Celebration Concert. Join the Womyn's Chorus as we celebrate the season of love. Music from many genres and cultures with a reception to follow. Lancaster Theological Seminary, 555 West James Street (at intersection with College Avenue), across from Franklin and Marshall College, Tickets $15 (children 18 and under, and seniors 65 and older, $5) Email: info@cpwchorus.org, Website: www.cpwchorus.org.

April 10, 2004, 10:00 p.m.
Pennsmen: Barnight Social, Join the Pennsmen for our monthly social at The Neptune... Bartenders, 50/50, bootblack,and men in leather! The Neptune Lounge, 268 North Street Harrisburg, PA 17101. Contact: Steve James at 717.232.3785. Email: sejames81664@comcast.net, Website: www.pennsmen.org

April 11, 2004, 5:00 p. m.,
Pennsmen: Monthly meeting. Anyone interested in getting to know more about The Pennsmen are welcome to attend our monthly business meetings, held at the 704 Strawberry. 704 N. Third Street Harrisburg, PA 17101. Contact: Steve James at 717.232.3785. Email: sejames81664@comcast.net, Website: www.pennsmen.org.

Social Organizations

Business Association for Gay and Lesbian (BAGAL)
Social/Business Professionals. Meets every other month. PO Box 135
Harrisburg, PA 17108 Phone: 717.612.8445. Email: BAGAL-PA@aol.com.

Common Roads - Youth group. Ages 14-24. Social/Information/Support. Social activities every Friday eve at 7:00 P.M. 1300A North 3rd St, Harrisburg. Email: info@commonroads.org. Website: www.commonroads.org. Voice: 717.920.9534.

Gay & Lesbian Organization of Reading & Allentown -P O Box 541,Bethlehem , PA 18016, nonprofit social group for adult men & women, singles & couples. 1 or 2 activities each month including potlucks, bowling, movie nights, hikes, dinners, etc. Email: glorainpa@aol.com.

Harrisburg Gay Men's and Women's Volleyball - Social/Recreation. Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Baughman United Methodist Church, New Cumberland Cost: $2.50, Contact: Jim at 233.3172.

Harrisburg Women's Rugby Club - Looking for players for summer and fall league. No experience necessary. Email: rugbydog34@aol.com.

Lambda Car Club - Social/Recreation. Meets monthly. Email: Buickbum@aol.com Voice: Contact John Ball at 717.238.9766.

Pennsmen.
Leather/Levi/Social. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 21 with an interest in the lifestyle. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at the 704 Strawberry. Contact: Steve at 717.232.3785. Website: www.pennsmen.org, Email: jesjames71@comcast.net.

Pride Festival of Central PA - Planning meetings. Meets second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., Volunteers welcome. Email: info@harrisburgpride.org. Website: www.harrisburg-pride.org. Voice: 717.234.0328.

The Rainbow Bowling League - ABC Bowling Lanes - Eisenhower Blvd, Harrisburg. The Rainbow Bowling League bowls every Thursday at 8:55 p.m. The Rainbow Bowling League is considered a "mixed" league: in other

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Support Groups

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc. - Phone helpline: (717)234.0328, M-F 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. Some weekend support. Website: www.AskGLSH.org. Email: info@AskGLSH.org. 1300A North 3rd St. Harrisburg, PA 17102.

Lambda AA – Harrisburg - Support group for recovering lesbian and gay alcoholics using 12-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Quaker Meeting House. 6th and Herr Sts. Lower level. (717)234-5390. Hours: Mon 8 p.m. and Fri 8:30 p.m.

Parents and Families, Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) of Central Pennsylvania - Support for GLBT families, friends, resources, publications, information from National office & small library. Meets 3rd Monday of each. Email: pflagcenpa@yahoo.com, Tressler/DIAKON: Voice: (717)795.0330. 24-hr helplineL717)728.8800.

Parents and Families, Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) of York. Meets 3rd Monday at 7 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York, 925 S. George St. York, PA 17404. For more information call (717)846.2560.

The Quest Group – a supportive, loving spiritual community for gays, lesbians and those who love them that promotes an atmosphere of unconditional acceptance and provides an opportunity to know each other through God and to know God through each other. This is a social group also. Meets the second and fourth Fridays of the month. Unity Church of Harrisburg. Enola, PA. (717)975-2028.

Rainbow AA of York (Gay and Lesbian AA). Meets Thursday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Trinity Lutheran, 415 N. West St. York. For more information (717)846.2560 or Email: chuck-dk@aol.com

Helplines and Crisis Intervention

Contact Helpline - 717)657.4400

Dauphin County Crisis – 717.232.7511

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc.
– 717.234.0328. Support Hours:
M-F: 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Some weekend support.
Email: info@AskGLSH.org.

Holy Spirit Crisis – 717.763.2222

Lancaster Shelter for Abused Women - 717.299.1249

Health and Support Care (AIDS/HIV)

AIDS Community Alliance (ACA) - HIV/AIDS service and education provider for Cumberland, Dauphin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin & Perry Counties. Location: 401 Division Street, Suite 100, Harrisburg, PA 17110, Phone: 717.233.7190, Toll Free: 1.800.867.1550, Fax: 717.233.7196, Hours: M - F 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (24 hr. on call) Website: www.aca-pa.com

AIDS Planning Coalition of South Central PA, Case management for HIV/AIDS infected persons; supportive services for infected persons and families; prevention education/outreach; assess HIV/AIDS related needs throughout the region; prioritizes service needs for infected persons & communities; produces needs assessment reports for the Dept. of Health; provides education & training just to name a few. Location: 3461 Market St., Ste 200, Camp Hill, PA 17011, Phone: 717.761.7628,
Hours: M - F 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Contact: Sylvia Hepler.

AIDS Testing Site – Carlisle; FREE Confidential/Anonymous HIV Counseling & Testing – Hours: Every Wednesday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Location: Sadler Clinic, Carlisle Hospital, 117 North Hanover St, Carlisle, PA 17013, Toll Free: 800.867.1550.

AIDS Testing Site – Harrisburg; FREE Confidential/Anonymous HIV Counseling & Testing - ACA Admin Office. Location: 401 Division Street, Suite 100, Harrisburg, PA 17110, Toll Free: 800.867.1550, Hours: Every Tuesday 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

AIDS Testing Site 1 – Lancaster: FREE Confidential/Anonymous HIV Counseling & Testing. Spanish America Civic Association. Location: SACA Nuestra Clinica, 447 E. King Street. Lancaster, PA 17601, Toll Free: 800.867.1550, Hours: Every Tuesday 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

AIDS Testing Site 2 – Lancaster: FREE Confidential/Anonymous HIV Counseling & Testing. Location: Southeast Lancaster Health Services, 625 South Duke St, Lancaster, PA 17601, Toll Free: 800.867.1550, Hours: Every Thursday 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Berks AIDS Network, Comprehensive services for people with HIV/AIDS and friends/families including case management; drop-in-center programs; prevention/case management outreach; PWA speakers; bureau - prison programs. PO Box 8626, Reading, PA 19603, Phone: 610.375.6523 Hours: M - F 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact: Deb McCoue or Nadine Suet-Weiss. Website: www.berksaidsnetwork.org

Capital Region Health System: Free or low-cost comprehensive HIV primary care, including internal medicine provided by an HIV Specialist, dental care, mental health and substance abuse counseling, care coordination, nutrition, adherence, on-site pharmacy, lab, x-ray, and free transportation. Patient psycho-social education and groups, including HIV Basics, secondary prevention, universal precautions for families, and patient wellness. Educational sessions, including: HIV/STD risk-reduction (3-4.5 hour course for high-risk individuals, especially for clients in Drug & Alcohol Recovery Programs), HIV Clinical Basics for Professionals, and HIV Basics for Lay-Persons. Free HIV Testing and Counseling. Location: Hamilton Health Center, 1821 Fulton Street, Harrisburg, PA, 17104, Phone: (717) 230-3949, Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Contact: Linda Dodson.

Lebanon Family Health Services: Health Care organization and accepts WIC special supplemental nutrition program. Reproductive Health Care, family life & sexuality education. Location: 615 Cumberland St, Lebanon, PA 17042, Phone: 717.273.6741 Contact: Joellen Rakow, Hours: Monday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Positive Opportunities, Inc.: Free benefits counseling & job placement services for HIV individuals from all walks of life. Location: 1519 N. Front St., Suite 6L, Harrisburg, PA 17101, Toll Free: 1.800:867.1550, ext 230. Contact: Frank Pizzoli, Hours: By appt. Email: posops@aol.com.

REACCH Program, PinnacleHealth: The REACCH Program (Resource Education and Comprehensive Care for People with HIV) provides medical services and comprehensive care to those persons who are infected with HIV. Presently, services are provided by a board certified infectious disease physician, nurse practitioner, nurse educator, pharmacist, registered dietician, social worker, financial counselor, and case worker from AIDS Community Alliance. The REACCH Program currently receives Ryan White Care Act Title II and Title III funding to help pay for medical care for men,

continued on page 19

Michael Tindell continued

form to stand on and be heard."

Mr. Gay Harrisburg was obligated to do at least three benefits during the year and run for the title of "Mr. Gay Pennsylvania."

"Lo and behold," Mike says, " I got a call from the Mr. USA Pageant of America, it was august 2003, asking me to become Mr. Gay Pennsylvania. They just gave me the title, $250, a medallion and a plaque. They hadn't had anyone represent Pennsylvania for the last twenty-seven years. I'm not really sure why. So I was the very first person from the region to represent Pennsylvania in the Mr. Gay USA contest." Unfortunately, Mike had to pay his own way to the pageant in Hickory, North Carolina.

"The Mr. USA Pageant my year was a very diverse group of guys. You had whites, Asians, Hispanics, African Americans…." All of the contestants were judged in four categories, personal interview, club wear, swimwear and talent. Although Mike did not win the national title, he enjoyed the five days he spent with the 27 other contestants.

These days Mike still works at his hair salon, still sings locally and regularly participates in Gay Pride events and benefits for the needy. If you can't catch up with him at Strawberry 704's Karaoke Night, you'll probably find him singing at a benefit event somewhere. "As long as I have a breath in my body to do benefits, I will."

Eric Ledell Smith comes from a line of writers. His great grandfather was a Pittsburgh newspaper publisher and his maternal grandmother a poet. A nationally recognized scholar in African American studies and Pennsylvania history, he's published 30 professional articles and four books. His latest book, "African American Theater Buildings," was published November 2003 (McFarland & Company Publishers Inc.)

Health Issues Create Buzz

Health issues have emerged as the hot item in many lgbt circles. More often than not, queers now expect to be treated with respect and dignity by medical professions and their staff. A physician not comfortable with a patient's sexuality often finds that patient searching for a less dehumanizing experience.

With that in mind, *Alternative Central* provides readers with an interest in queer health issues the National Coalition for LGBT Health four-year calendar for upcoming regional and national LGBT Health Awareness Weeks.

2004

March 12-13,
Third Annual Philadelphia Trans-health, Philadelphia, PA (www.trans-health.org)

March 14-20, 2004:
Second Annual LGBT Health Awareness Week

March 14-16, 2004:
NCLGBTHealth Spring Meeting, Washington, DC

March 17-22,
American Medical Student Association Conference, Kansas City, MO

May 19-22,
Third National Lesbian Health Conference, Chicago, IL

June 4-6,
National Youth Advocacy 2004 Summit, Washington, DC

July 11-17,
International AIDS Conference, Bangkok, Thailand

August 5-9,
Eighth International Conference on Bisexuality, Minneapolis, MN

August 11-15 or 25-29,
LGBTI Health Summit, Boston, MA

September 12-14, 2004
NCLGBTHealth Fall Meeting,

continued on page 19

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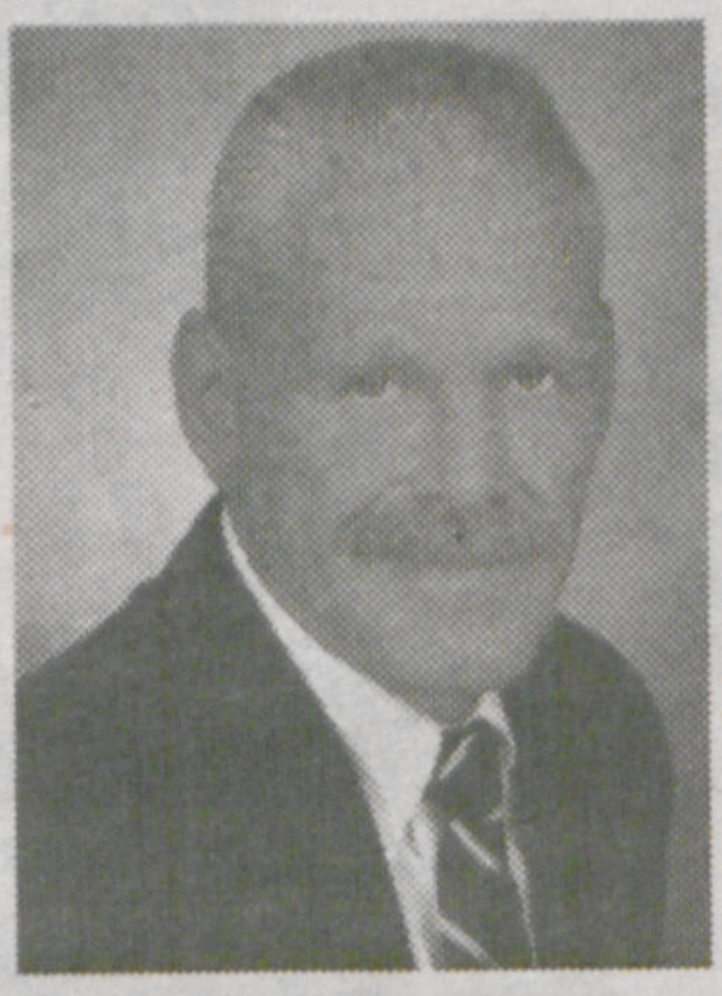

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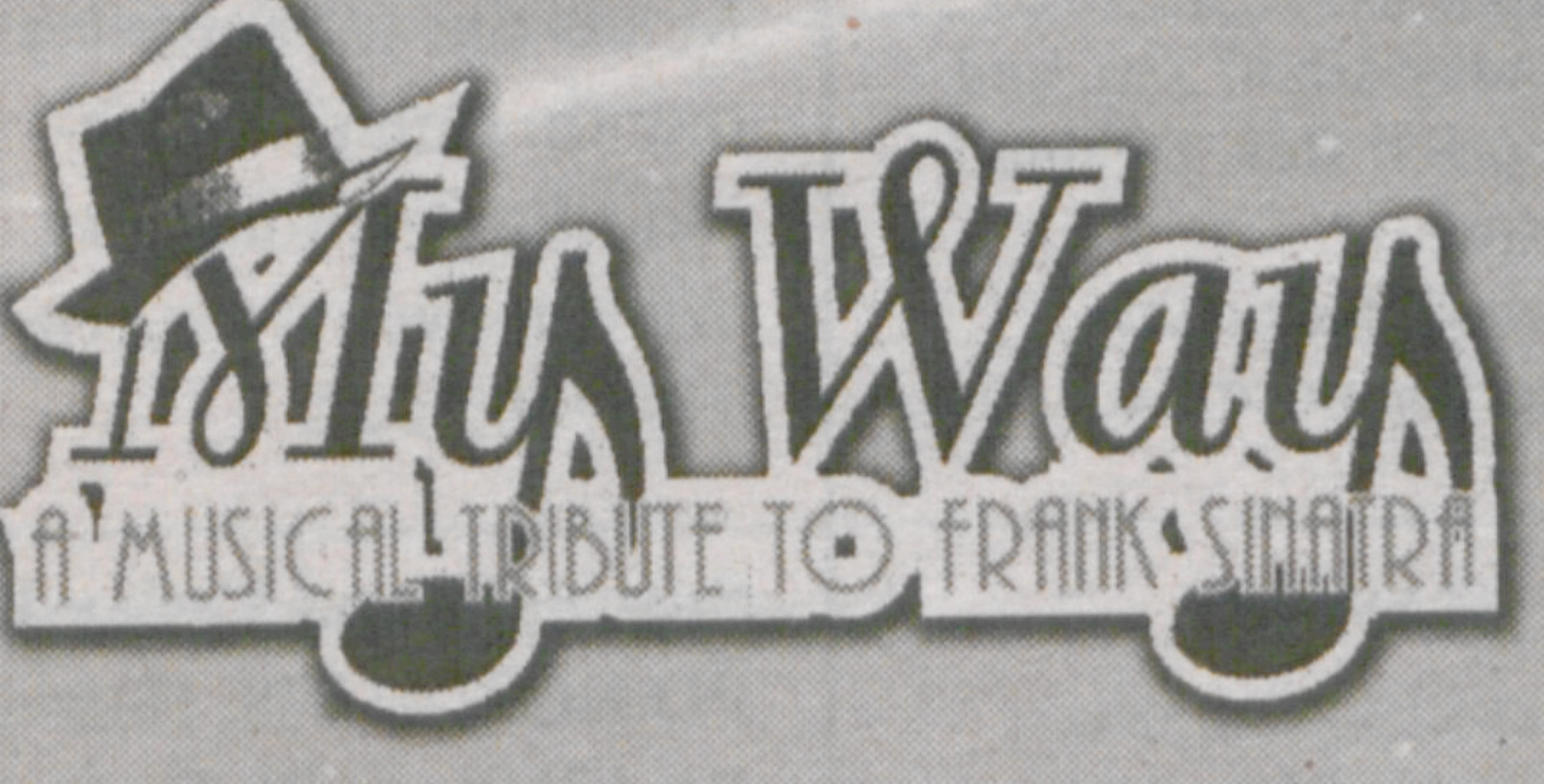
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August 3 - 15

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August 17 - 29

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Spiritual

Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit (MCC) - 2973 Jefferson St. Harrisburg, PA 17110, Phone: 717.236.7387, Email: mccofthespirit@cs.com, Website: www.mccofthespirit.org. "A Diverse, Christian Community, Fostering Personal, Spiritual, and Community Growth" MCC of the Spirit reaches out to ALL people and offers many ministry opportunities such as: Gospel Choir, Praise Band, and Just Jam. Sunday services are: 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 7p.m.

St. Michael Lutheran Church - 118 State St. Harrisburg, PA 17101, Phone: 717.234.0092, Sunday Email: stmichael@paonline.com, Website: www.paonline.com/stmike.

Temple Beth Shalom - 913 Allendale Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055, Phone: 717.697.2662, Fax: 717.795.7749 Contact: Rabbi Carl Choper, Email: tbs.temple@verizon.net, Website: www.tbshalom.org. Synagogue with open and affirming LGBT position.

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg - 1280 Clover Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17113, Phone: 717.564.4761 Email: uch@paonline.com, Website: www.paonline.com/uchuua. Provides a mutually supportive liberal religious environment, which nurtures each individual's free and responsible search for personal meaning and growth. Seeking to be a caring and democratic community, we gather to articulate, question, and affirm our beliefs and to develop the courage to act upon them.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York - 925 S. George St, York, PA 17403, Phone: 717.845.8212, Mon. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. - noon. Email: office@uucy.org, Website: www.uucy.org.

Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley - 2 Forge Rd, PO Box 207, Boiling Springs, PA 17007, Phone: 717.249.8944. The Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley are proud to bring the voice and the practice of liberal religion to the Cumberland Valley region. All are welcome to join us in worship regardless of age, race, religious background, class, or sexual orientation. We come together to support one another in our continuing commitment to a free and loving search for spiritual meaning and to the expression of that meaning in our community and in our personal lives. Adult services and children's religious education are offered every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Unity Church of Harrisburg, 927 Wertzville Road, Enola, Pa 17025, Phone: 717 732-9773. Fax: 717 732-9074, Website: www.unitychurchharrisburg.com, Sunday services, classes, Spiritual & social Support Group for Alternative Lifestyles Group meets twice month.

Vision of Hope Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) - 130 East Main Street, Mountville, PA 17554. Phone: 717.285.9070 Worship - Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Contact: Rev. Debbie Coggin. Website: www.visionofhopemcc.com. Email: visionofhopemcc@aol.com.

Social Organizations continued

words, both men and women are welcome. We invite anyone interested in joining. Openings for individual bowlers, teams and substitutes. Contact: Mark or Robert 763-8444 for more details.

Renaissance LSV - Transgendered. Social/Information/Support. Meets the 1st Saturday of each month. Email: renaissancelsv@hotmail.org. Website: www.ren.org. Voice: 717.780.1578.

Susquehanna Valley Bears - PO BOX 61478, Harrisburg, PA 17106-1478. Website:: www.svbears.com, Email: svbears@svbears.com

Susquehanna Club - Recreation/Camping. Membership organization. Website: www.susq.org, Email: camp@susq.org.

Womyn's Chorus of Central PA - Social - Regular rehearsals every Monday night at 7 PM. We need YOUR voice and spirit. Email info@cpwchorus.org. Website: www.cpwchorus.org or call 717.234.4825.

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc.

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Health and Support Care continued

women, adolescents and children. Location: Community Health Center, 2645 N. 3rd Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110, Phone: 717-782-2750, Contact: Victoria Stueckroth, Hours: 8:00am to 4:30pm Mon.-Fri

South Central District Office, PA Dept. of Health: HIV prevention counseling, CD4 & viral load testing, HIV partner counseling & referral. Location: 30 Kline Village Plaza, Harrisburg, PA 17104, Phone: 717-787-8092, Contact: Ellie Labajettea, Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

York Health Corporation: Primary health care, HIV case management & HIV related support services including transportation; housing; food bank; nutritional supplements; prevention seminars, Location: 18 S. George St., Suite 701, York, PA 17401, Phone: 717.846.6776, Contact: Meg Wheeler, Hours: M - F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Health Issues continued

Washington, DC
October 7-10,
LLEGO Encuentro, Seattle, Washington (www.llego.org <http://www.llego.org>)
November 6-10,
American Public Health Association (APHA), Washington, DC (www.apha.org)
December 1-4,
National Association of Gay and Lesbian Addiction Professionals, Atlanta, GA

2005

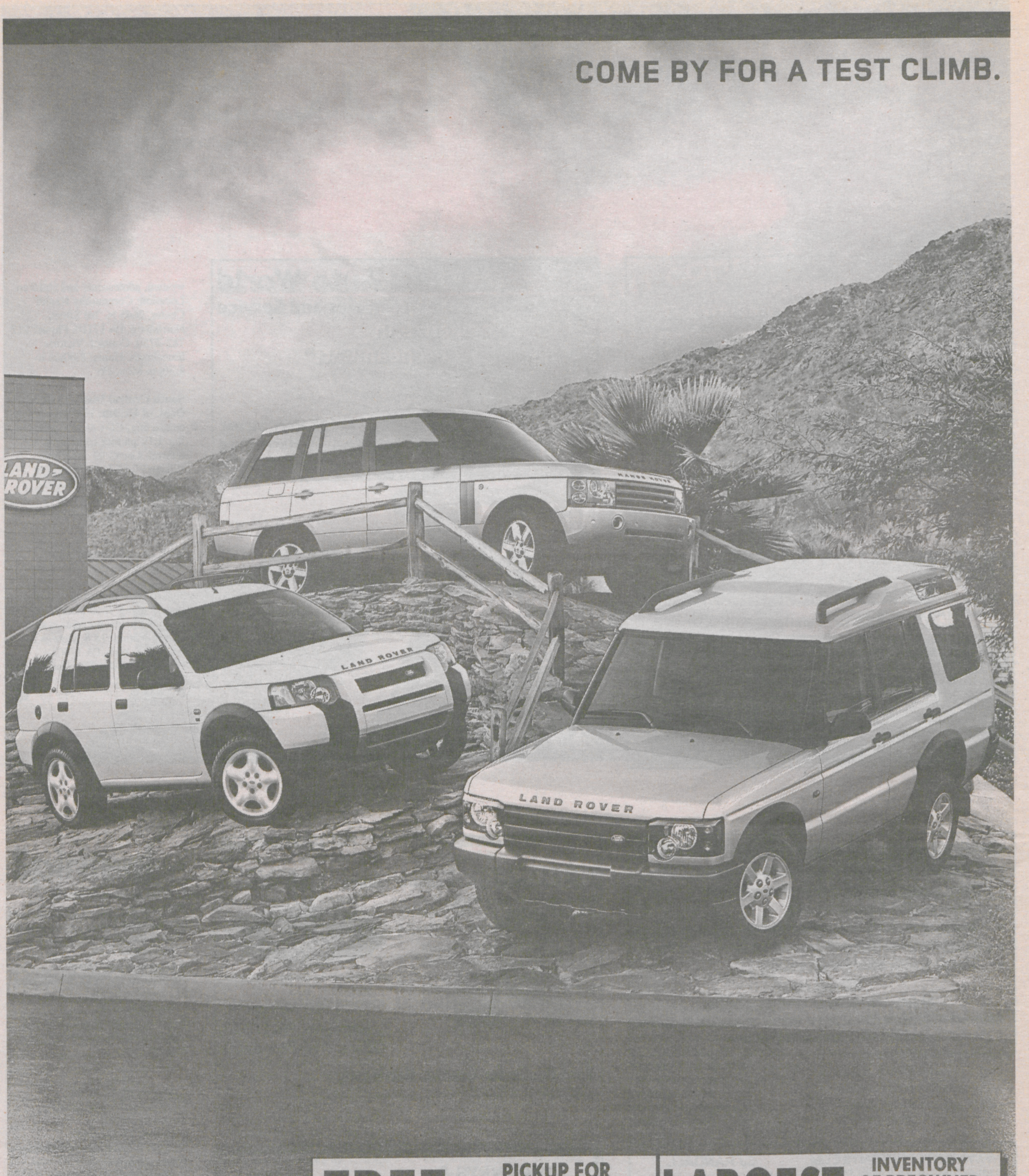
March 13-19, 2005:
Third Annual LGBT Health Awareness Week
March 13-15, 2005:
NCLGBTHealth Spring Meeting, Washington, DC
September 11-13, 2005
NCLGBTHealth Fall Meeting, Washington, DC

2006

March 12-18, 2006:
Fourth Annual LGBT Health Awareness Week
March 12-14, 2006:
NCLGBTHealth Spring Meeting, Washington, DC
September 10-12, 2006
NCLGBTHealth Fall Meeting, Washington, DC

2007

March 11-17, 2007:
Fifth Annual LGBT Health Awareness Week
March 11-13, 2007:
NCLGBTHealth Spring Meeting, Washington, DC
September 9-11, 2007
NCLGBTHealth Fall Meeting, Washington, DC



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